W.i.t.c.h.

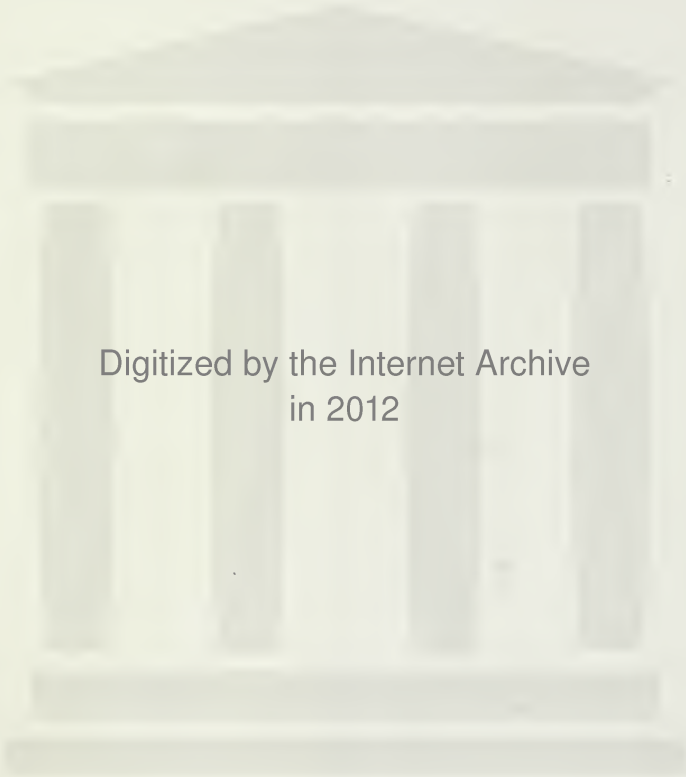
1

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

GRAPHIC NOVEL

2 FULL-LENGTH COMIC STORIES!

THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP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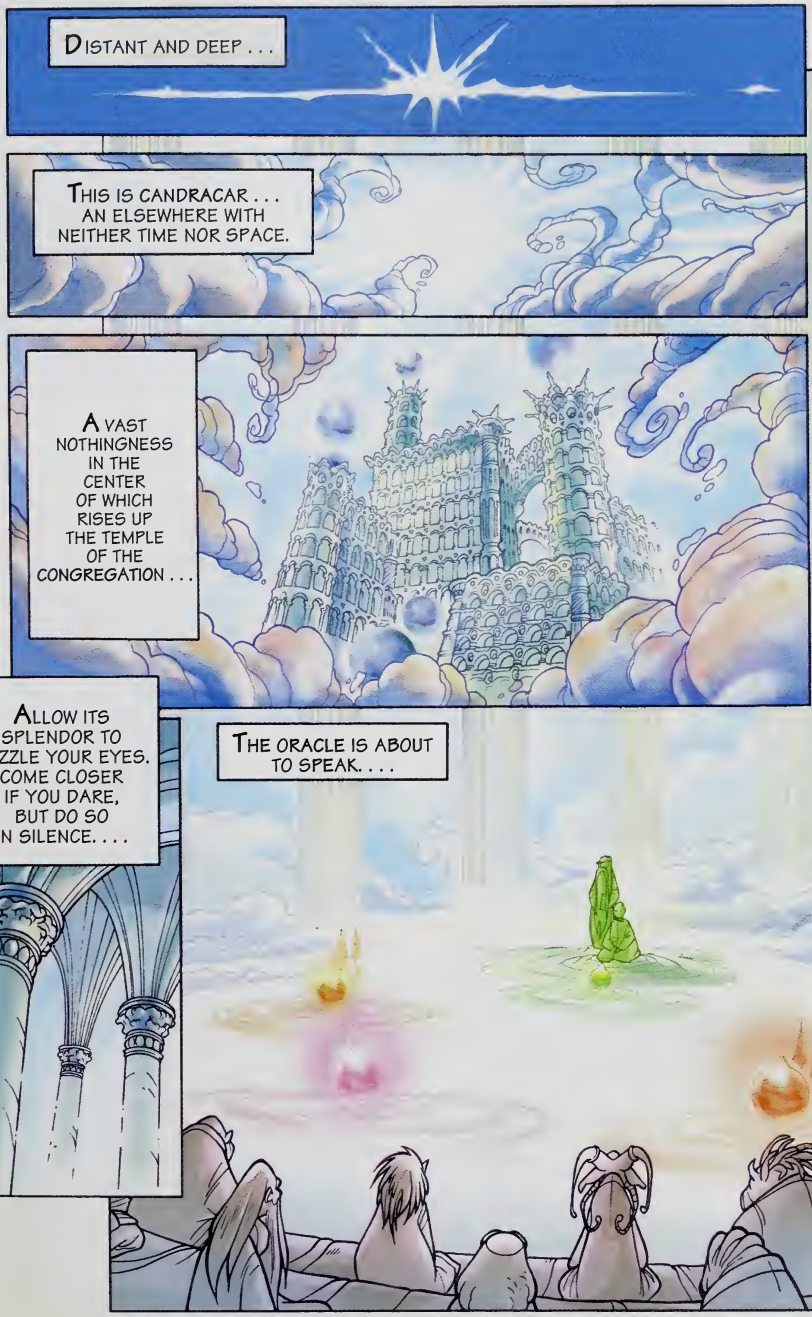
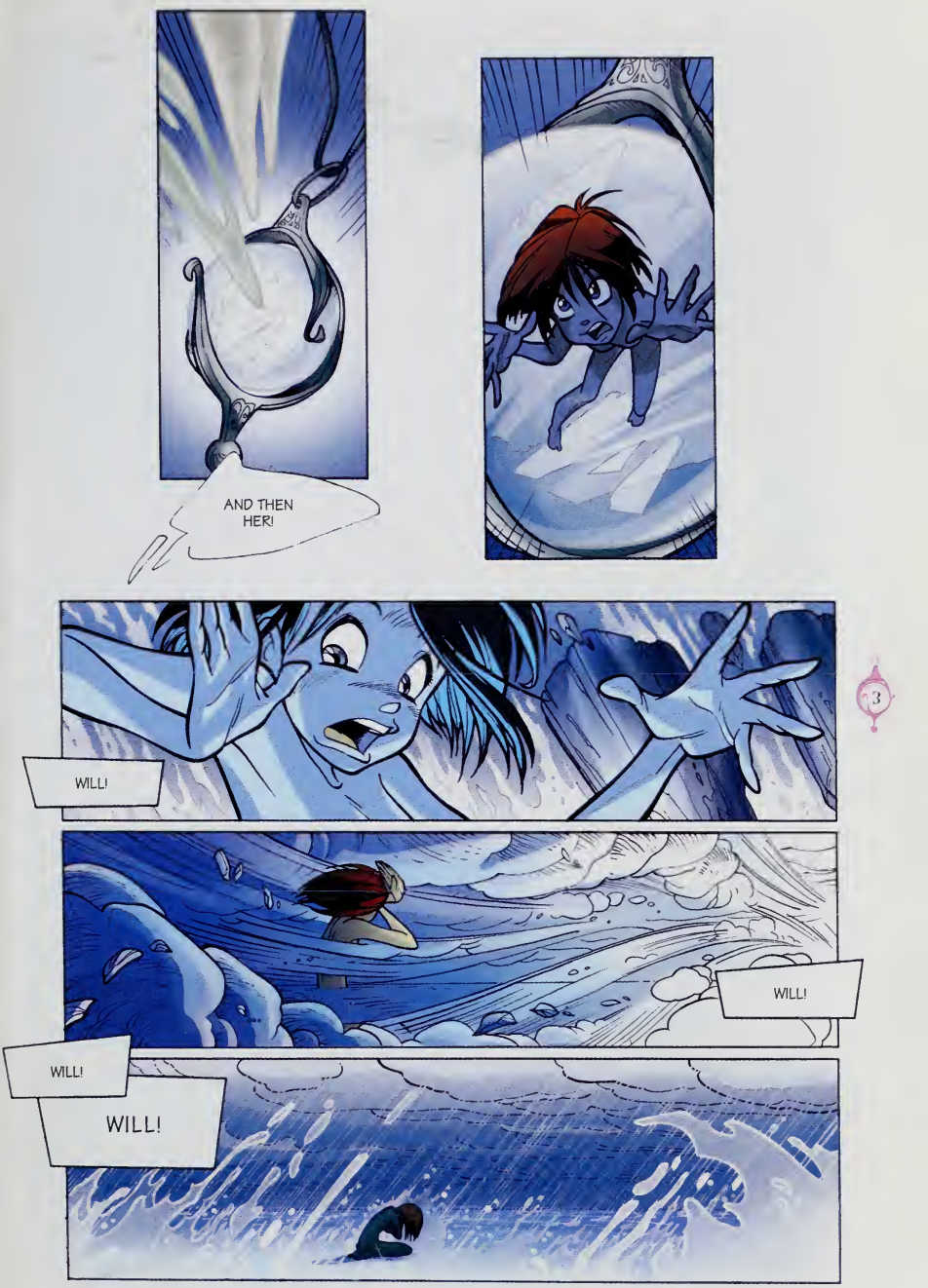
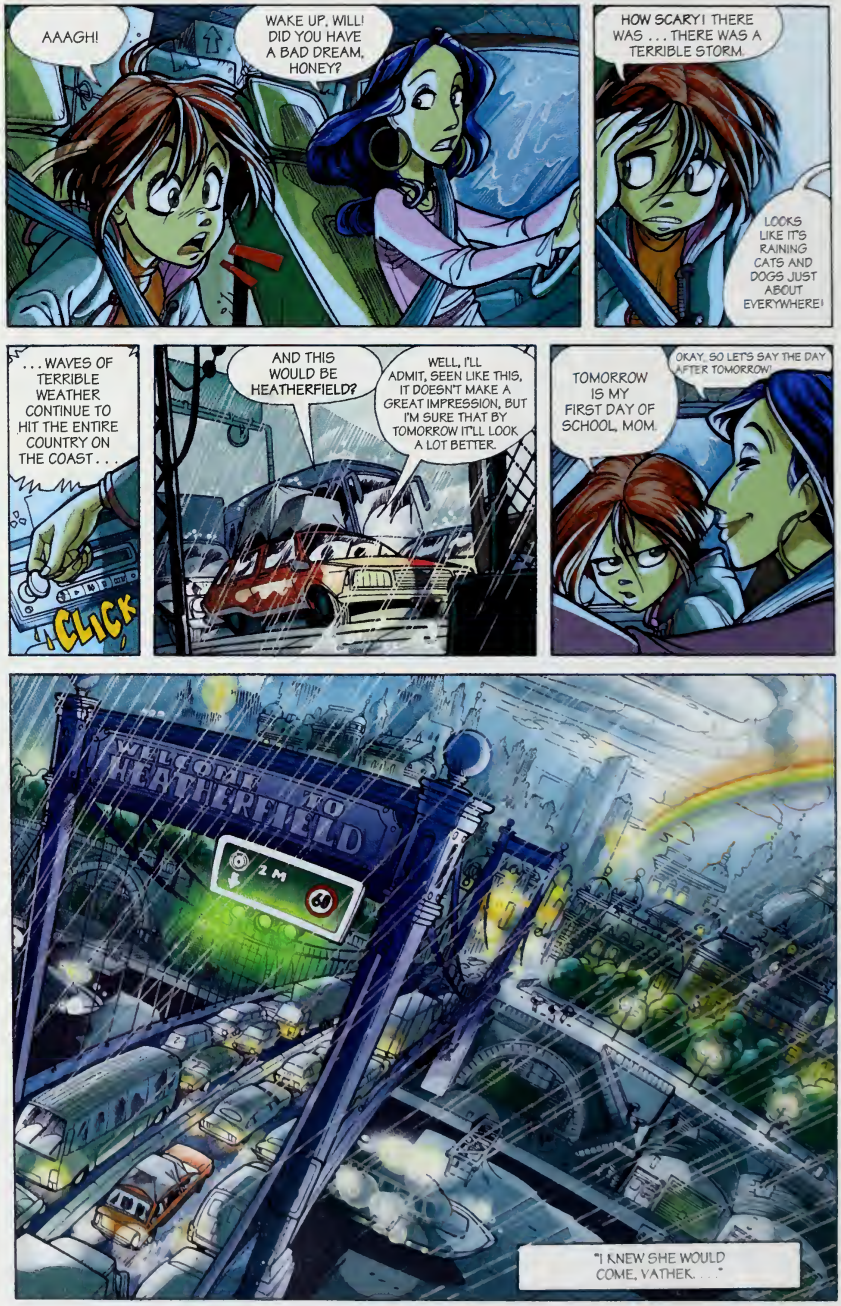
GRAPHIC NOVEL #1

THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP


DISTANT AND DEEP . . .
THIS IS CANDRACAR . . . AN ELSEWHERE WITH NEITHER TIME NOR SPACE.
A VAST NOTHINGNESS IN THE CENTER OF WHICH RISES UP THE TEMPLE OF THE CONGREGATION . . .
ALLOW ITS SPLENDOR TO DAZZLE YOUR EYES. COME CLOSER IF YOU DARE, BUT DO SO IN SILENCE. . . .
THE ORACLE IS ABOUT TO SPEAK. . . .

THERE IS NO MORE TIME. BROTHERS AND SISTERS! THE VEIL IS ONCE AGAIN IN DANGER.
IT IS TIME FOR THE GUARDIANS TO RETURN AND DEFEND THE ORIGIN OF ALL THINGS!
WHO WILL THE CHOSEN ONES BE THIS TIME, SIR?
FIVE GIRLS, ALTHOR.
HUMAN BEINGS!
MAGICAL BEINGS, LUBA. NATURE WILL BE THEIR FRIEND, THE EARTH THEIR MOTHER, AND THE ELEMENTS THEIR ALLIES.
AIR!
WATER!
EARTH!
FIRE!


AND THEN HER!
WILL!
WILL!
WILL!
WILL!


AAAGH!
WAKE UP, WILL! DID YOU HAVE A BAD DREAM, HONEY?
HOW SCARY! THERE WAS . . . THERE WAS A TERRIBLE STORM.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE!
. . . WAVES OF TERRIBLE WEATHER CONTINUE TO HIT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY ON THE COAST . . .
CLICK
AND THIS WOULD BE HEATHERFIELD?
WELL, I'LL ADMIT, SEEN LIKE THIS, IT DOESN'T MAKE A GREAT IMPRESSION, BUT I'M SURE THAT BY TOMORROW IT'LL LOOK A LOT BETTER.
TOMORROW IS MY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, MOM.
OKAY, SO LET'S SAY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!
WELCOME TO HEATHERFIELD
2 M
60
"I KNEW SHE WOULD COME, VATHEK. . . ."

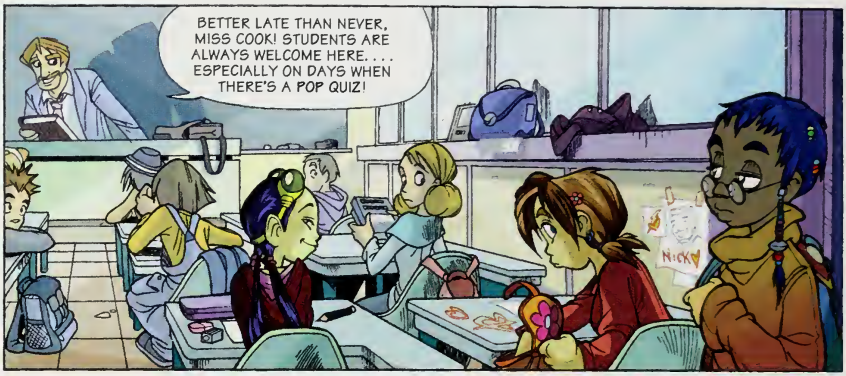
"SHE DETESTS THIS CITY, BUT SHE'LL SURVIVE."

YES, I'M CERTAIN THAT THIS GIRL AND I SHALL GET ALONG WELL, OLD FRIEND!

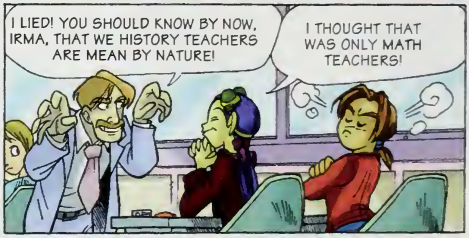
IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO DESTROY HER!

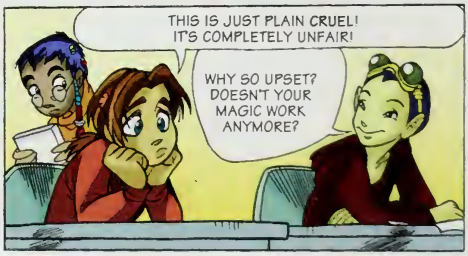
THE SUN IS SHINING ON A NEW DAY IN HEATHERFIELD. THE CLOUDS HAVE DISAPPEARED . . .
FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT ONE GIRL . . .
Sheffield Institute
STUPID ALARM! IF I'M LATE IT'S ALL THANKS TO THAT ALARM! I CAN ALREADY HEAR WHAT MY TEACHER WILL SAY!
"WE'RE OFF TO A BAD START, MISS VANDOM."

NOW WHERE DO I GO?
SO WHAT DOES A GIRL HAVE TO DO TO GET TO CLASSROOM 3A?
MAYBE GET PROMOTED OUT OF 2A.
TWO DAYS AGO I HAD THE SAME LOOK ON MY FACE. I'M NEW, TOO. MY NAME IS TARANEE!
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M WILL.
WOULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT YOU'RE STILL DOING OUT HERE IN THE HALLWAY, YOUNG LADIES?
IT'S THE PRINCIPAL! MRS. KNICKER-BOCKER!
LESSONS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN, MISS COOK! STRAIGHT TO CLASS!
AS FOR YOU . . .
M—M—MY NAME IS WILL VANDOM, MA'AM, AND I THINK I'M A BIT LOST!
WE'RE OFF TO A BAD START, MISS VANDOM.


BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, MISS COOK! STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE. . . . ESPECIALLY ON DAYS WHEN THERE'S A POP QUIZ!
NICKY

POP QUIZ? YESTERDAY YOU SAID THERE WOULD BE A REVIEW!


I LIED! YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW, IRMA, THAT WE HISTORY TEACHERS ARE MEAN BY NATURE!
I THOUGHT THAT WAS ONLY MATH TEACHERS!


THIS IS JUST PLAIN CRUEL! IT'S COMPLETELY UNFAIR!
WHY SO UPSET? DOESN'T YOUR MAGIC WORK ANYMORE?

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OH, COME ON! I MEAN RIGGING THE QUIZZES!

DID YOU SAY "RIGGING THE QUIZZES"?
SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING! SHE JUST LIKES THE SOUND OF HER OWN VOICE!
RMMMPH!

YEOW!
WHAT'S GOING ON BACK THERE?
GNAW

MR. COLLINS! HAY LIN BIT ME!
THAT LOOKS LIKE A RAISED HAND! CONGRATULATIONS, IRMA! I NEEDED A VOLUNTEER, AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE FOUND ONE!

B—B—BUT THAT'S NOT FAIR!
WATCH AND LEARN, TARANEE! WHEN IRMA'S QUIZZED, FIRST SHE GETS ANGRY, THEN SHE GETS DESPERATE. . . .

SHUT UP! I DIDN'T STUDY AT ALL! ALL I KNOW IS A LITTLE ABOUT CHARLES THE GREAT!
. . . THEN SHE SHUTS HER EYES TIGHT, CLASPS HER HANDS . . .

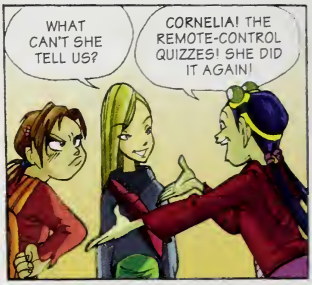
ASKMEABOUTCHARLESTHEGREAT! PLEASEOHPLEASEOHPLEASE!
. . . AND IF THERE'S ONLY ONE SINGLE THING SHE STUDIED, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE PROF IS GOING TO ASK HER ABOUT! I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT! ALL I KNOW FOR SURE . . .

. . . IS THAT IT WORKS EVERY TIME!
HMMM . . . LET'S SEE, HERE. . . .
HISTO

IRMA LAIR, WHY DON'T YOU TELL US ABOUT CHARLES THE GREAT?
YESSS!

DRIIIIING

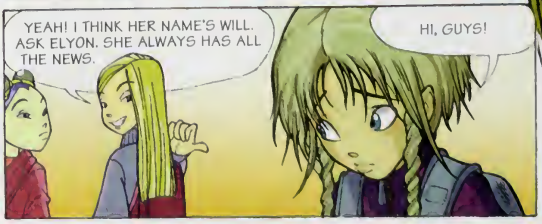
HA! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU DID IT AGAIN!
HEY! IT'S A SECRET! YOU CAN'T GO AROUND TELLING THE WHOLE SCHOOL!


WHAT CAN'T SHE TELL US?
CORNELIA! THE REMOTE-CONTROL QUIZZES! SHE DID IT AGAIN!

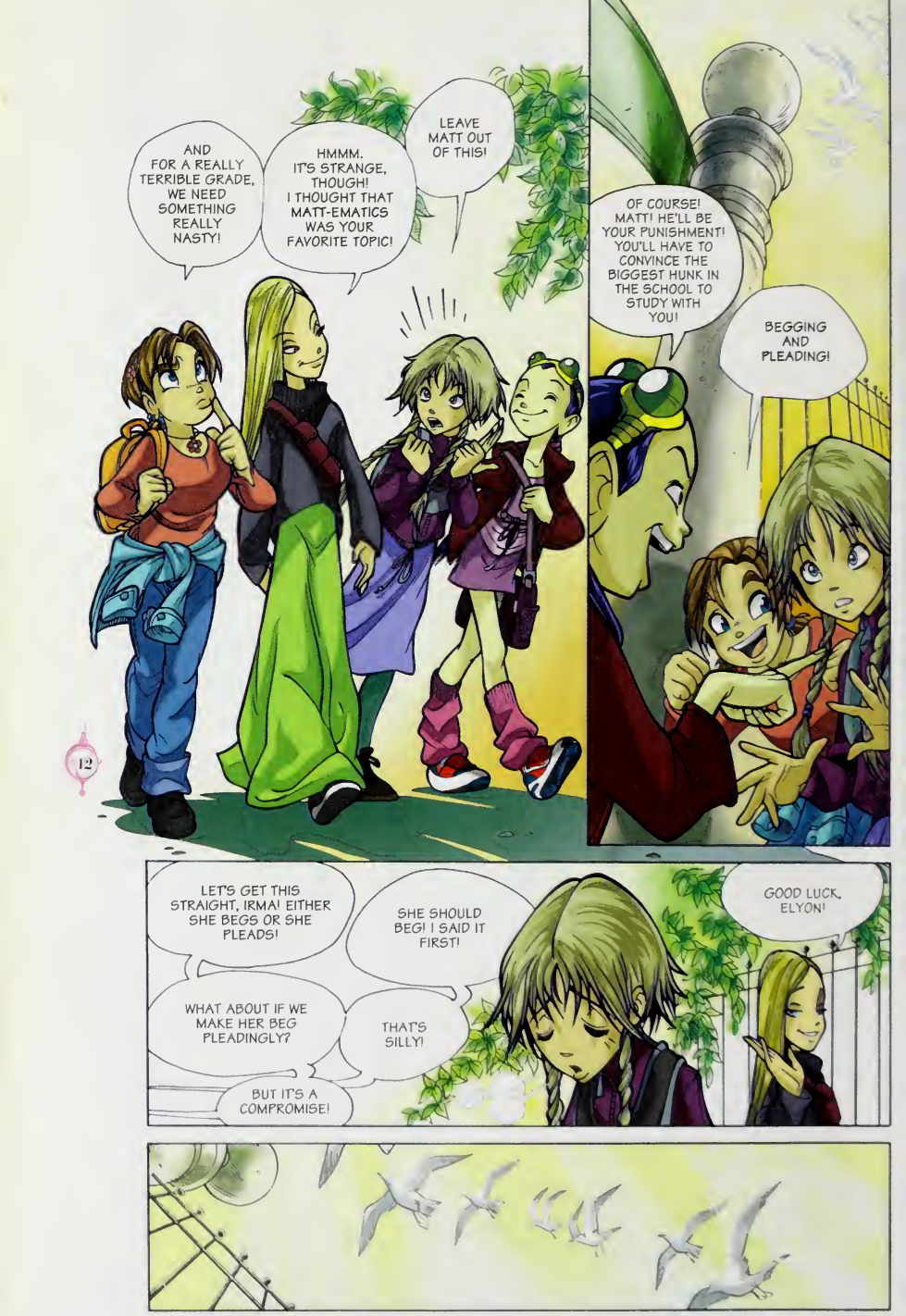
REMOTE-CONTROL QUIZZES. SHE THINKS SHE'S A BIG SHOT, BUT SHE'S JUST A BEGINNER.

IF SHE ONLY KNEW WHAT I CAN DO!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

WHO WAS THAT?
HER NAME'S TARANEE! ONE OF THE NEW KIDS. THE OTHER ONE IS IN CLASS WITH YOU AND ELYON, RIGHT?


YEAH! I THINK HER NAME'S WILL. ASK ELYON. SHE ALWAYS HAS ALL THE NEWS.
HI, GUYS!

LOOK AT ME, ELYON! I'VE SEEN THIS FACE BEFORE!
ME, TOO. IT WAS IN A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT EASTER ISLAND!
OH, NO, NO, NO, CORNELIA! I RECOGNIZE A "FLUNKED" LOOK WHEN I SEE ONE!
AND I'D SAY THAT WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A BIG, FAT, HAIRY F!
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! I GOT A BAD GRADE IN MATH! SATISFIED?
OF COURSE I AM! BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, RIGHT?
PUUUUNISHMENT!
AWW, COME ON! YOU COULD LOOK THE OTHER WAY JUST THIS ONCE!
THE LAW'S THE LAW, ELYON! YOU KNOW THE RULES OF THE GROUP!


AND FOR A REALLY TERRIBLE GRADE, WE NEED SOMETHING REALLY NASTY!
HMMM. IT'S STRANGE, THOUGH! I THOUGHT THAT MATT-EMATICS WAS YOUR FAVORITE TOPIC!
LEAVE MATT OUT OF THIS!
OF COURSE! MATT! HE'LL BE YOUR PUNISHMENT! YOU'LL HAVE TO CONVINCE THE BIGGEST HUNK IN THE SCHOOL TO STUDY WITH YOU!
BEGGING AND PLEADING!
LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT, IRMA! EITHER SHE BEGS OR SHE PLEADS!
SHE SHOULD BEG! I SAID IT FIRST!
WHAT ABOUT IF WE MAKE HER BEG PLEADINGLY?
THAT'S SILLY!
BUT IT'S A COMPROMISE!
GOOD LUCK, ELYON!

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?
DID YOU GUYS DO THIS?
HA-HA-HA! COULD BE!
HEE-HEE! LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S GONNA BE WALKING HOME TODAY!
YOU'RE NEW HERE, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE CUTE!
AND YOU'RE THE SAME OLD LAMEBRAIN, URIAH!
SO, YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY, DO YOU?
TRASH
IS MY BIKE IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT MESS, TOO, CHAMP?
SO DEAL WITH IT. LET'S MOVE, GUYS!
YOU JUST HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING URIAH AND HIS PALS.
I SURE COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT IT!
DON'T WORRY! NOT EVERYONE AROUND HERE IS LIKE THAT.
YOU'LL SEE, AT TONIGHT'S PARTY!
OH, NO! THE PARTY! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!

TARANEE, RIGHT? I'M CORNELIA!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
KRONK
WE'RE ALL MEETING AT THE GYM AT EIGHT O'CLOCK. IT'LL BE A PARTY YOU WON'T FORGET! I PROMISE!
CLANK
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, I JUST WANT TO FORGET ABOUT TODAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
AND DON'T FORGET TO WEAR A COSTUME—SCARY OR WONDERFUL OR WHATEVER—JUST MAKE SURE THAT IT'S SPECIAL!
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!
SEE YOU LATER, THEN!
I DON'T KNOW, CORNELIA. I HAVEN'T BEEN TO A PARTY IN AGES.
THEN THIS WILL BE YOUR CHANCE TO GET BACK INTO THE HABIT! BYE!

THE SHOW IS OVER.
THE SHOW HASN'T EVEN STARTED, GUYS!
YAWN!
Sheffield Institute

COME WITH ME!

THE COAST IS CLEAR, URIAH!
KEEP ON THE LOOKOUT!

WHADDYA SAY TO THESE? I TOOK 'EM FROM MY OLD MAN'S BOAT!
FLARE ROCKETS! WHADDYA WANNA DO WITH THEM?

AT TONIGHT'S PARTY, THE SCHOOL'S TAKING CARE OF THE MUSIC AND THE EATS. . . .

. . . BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE FIREWORKS MYSELF!
HALLOWEE

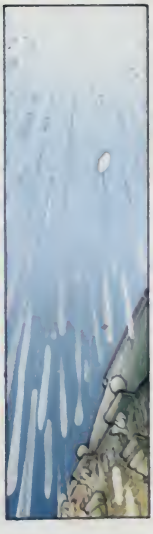
I DON'T KNOW IF I FEEL LIKE GOING TO THE PARTY. I'M TIRED AND I MIGHT HAVE TO HELP MY MOM HOOK UP TO THE INTERNET.
WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING, I'M NOT GOING, EITHER!
Sheffield Institute's
HALLOWEEN

LET'S HEAR WHAT THE BOSS HAS TO SAY.
WOW! YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN CELL PHONE!
YEAH, IT'S LIKE MY SECOND MOTHER.
BIP BIP BEEP BIP BIP

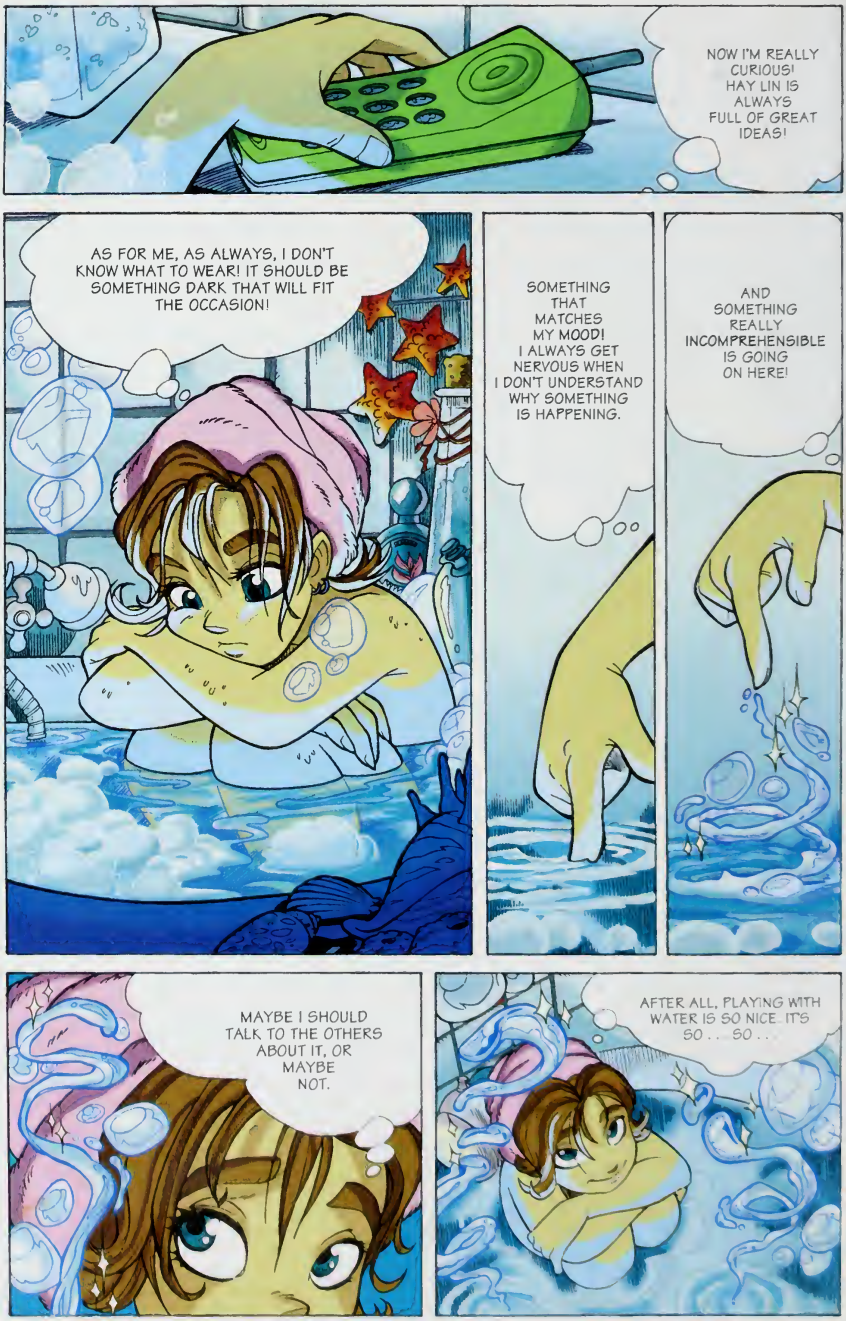
HI, MOM, IT'S ME! LISTEN, TONIGHT THERE'S GOING TO BE A PARTY AT SCHOOL, AND . . .
WAIT! WOULD YOU LET ME . . . IT'S JUST THAT . . .
. . . BUT . . .
YES . . . BUT . . .
OKAY. TALK TO YOU LATER.

DID SHE SAY NO?
SHE SAID YES.

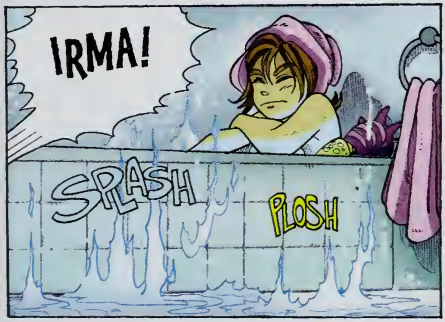
SO AREN'T YOU HAPPY?
WHAT? YOU CAN'T TELL?



IN THE MEANTIME . . .
NO, IRMA. I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET WHAT I'M GOING TO WEAR! BUT IT'S CERTAINLY GOING TO BE SOMETHING SPECTACULAR!
THE SILVER DRAGON
CHINESE RESTAURANT
ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT IT'S A NEW MODEL, AND WHEN I WALK IN, EVERYONE'S HEADS WILL TURN!
PRINCESS SUSAN
OF COURSE, IT'LL BE READY BY EIGHT O'CLOCK. YOU'LL SEE!
IT'LL BE SOMETHING UNIQUE! SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY! SOMETHING . . . SOMETHING BEWITCHING!
!
KLICK KLICK
AND WITH A COUPLE OF STITCHES, IT'LL BE READY IN TEN MINUTES!
RIGHT, GRANDMA?
TEN MINUTES, AS ALWAYS!


NOW I'M REALLY CURIOUS! HAY LIN IS ALWAYS FULL OF GREAT IDEAS!
AS FOR ME, AS ALWAYS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO WEAR! IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING DARK THAT WILL FIT THE OCCASION!
SOMETHING THAT MATCHES MY MOOD! I ALWAYS GET NERVOUS WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SOMETHING IS HAPPENING.
AND SOMETHING REALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE IS GOING ON HERE!
MAYBE I SHOULD TALK TO THE OTHERS ABOUT IT, OR MAYBE NOT.
AFTER ALL, PLAYING WITH WATER IS SO NICE. IT'S SO . . . SO . . .

...MAGICAL!


IRMA!
SPLASH
PLOSH

ARE YOU DONE? YOU'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR OVER AN HOUR!
JUST A SEC!

COME ON, EVAPORATE! I CAN'T LET DAD SEE THIS MESS!

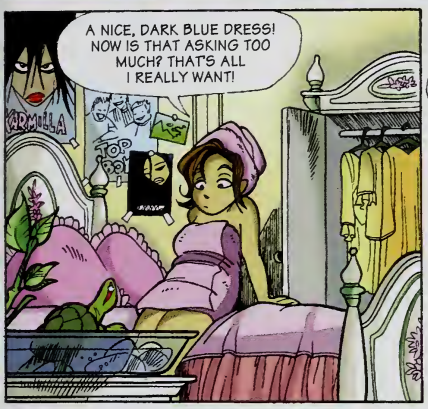
IRMA? I'M WARNING YOU. I'M LOSING MY PATIENCE!
H—H—HOLD ON!
SSHHHH

IRMA!
I'M COMING!
SWAP
SLAP

NEXT TIME, I'M GOING TO BREAK DOWN THE DOOR! YOU KNOW I CAN DO IT!
OH, YEAH? AND BY WHAT LAW, IF YOU PLEASE?
IT'S NO CRIME TO TAKE A TWO-HOUR BATH!
IF ONLY YOU GOT PRUNY FINGERS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, YOU WOULDN'T ACT LIKE THIS!
BUT NO! THE LITTLE LADY CAN STAY IN THERE, SOAKING ALL AFTERNOON, LIKE IT WAS NOTHING! GOOD GRIEF!
I KNOW MY RIGHTS, INSPECTOR!
IRMA! THERE'S A LAKE IN HERE!
I'LL ONLY SPEAK IN THE PRESENCE OF MY LAWYER!
WHEW! IT'S TOUGH BEING THIRTEEN!
SLAM

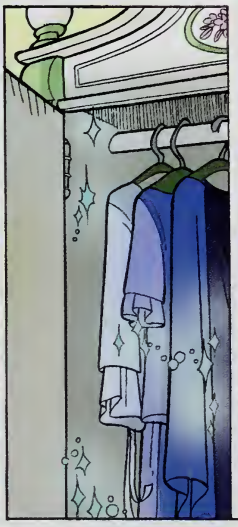
I ENVY YOU, LEAFY! I'D LIKE TO HAVE A NICE SHELL JUST LIKE YOURS— THE SAME OUTFIT EVERY DAY, FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.

BUT ME? I HAVE TO CHOOSE, DARN IT! WHY CAN'T I EVER FIND WHAT I WANT?


A NICE, DARK BLUE DRESS! NOW IS THAT ASKING TOO MUCH? THAT'S ALL I REALLY WANT!
CARMILLA

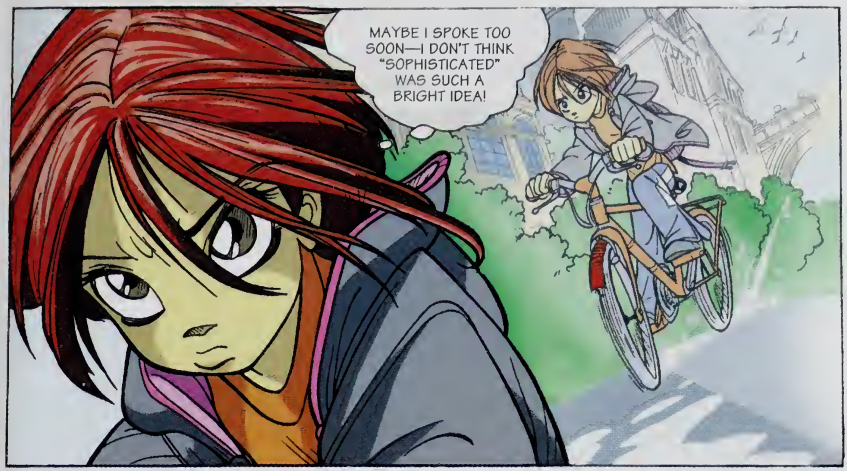
HUH?

!



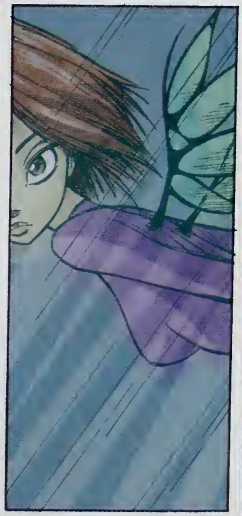
GULP!

IT'S STOPPED RAINING. I'D BETTER GET GOING.
THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER, TARANEE!
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK TONIGHT? SCARY OR SOPHISTICATED?
I ALWAYS LOOK SCARY! I'VE DECIDED TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.
HA-HA-HA!
I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN-THIRTY.
ON YOUR BIKE?
BY CAR! MY MOM WILL TAKE US.
SEE YOU LATER, WILL!


MAYBE I SPOKE TOO SOON—I DON'T THINK "SOPHISTICATED" WAS SUCH A BRIGHT IDEA!

I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER WEARING A SWEAT SUIT!
I SHOULD ASK AROUND! WHO KNOWS? MAYBE THEY SELL EVENING SWEAT SUITS SOMEWHERE!

IF THEY EXIST, I BET THAT THEY'RE ALL SEQUINED!
Olde

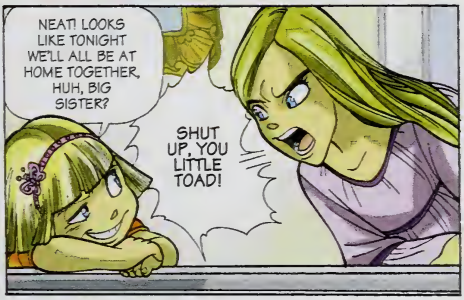


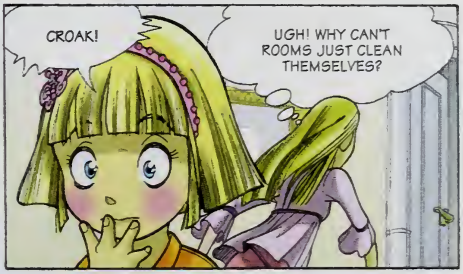
HUH?

SKREEE
!!!
YE OLDE BOOK SHOP
Ye Olde Bookshop
TH—THAT CAN'T BE!
IS THAT HER, SIR?
IT CERTAINLY IS! MAKE YOURSELF HANDSOME, VATHEK! TONIGHT WE'RE GOING OUT.

ANOTHER HOUSE, ANOTHER PROBLEM . . .
FORGET IT, YOUNG LADY! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE TONIGHT!
NOT UNTIL YOU'VE CLEANED YOUR ROOM!
COME ON, MOM! I'LL DO IT TOMORROW!
WHAT'S KEEPING YOU FROM DOING IT NOW?
MY GENETIC CODING DOESN'T LET ME GIVE IN TO BLACKMAIL!

IT'S UP TO YOU, CORNELIA! IF THIS IS A CHALLENGE, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOT EVERYTHING TO LOSE!

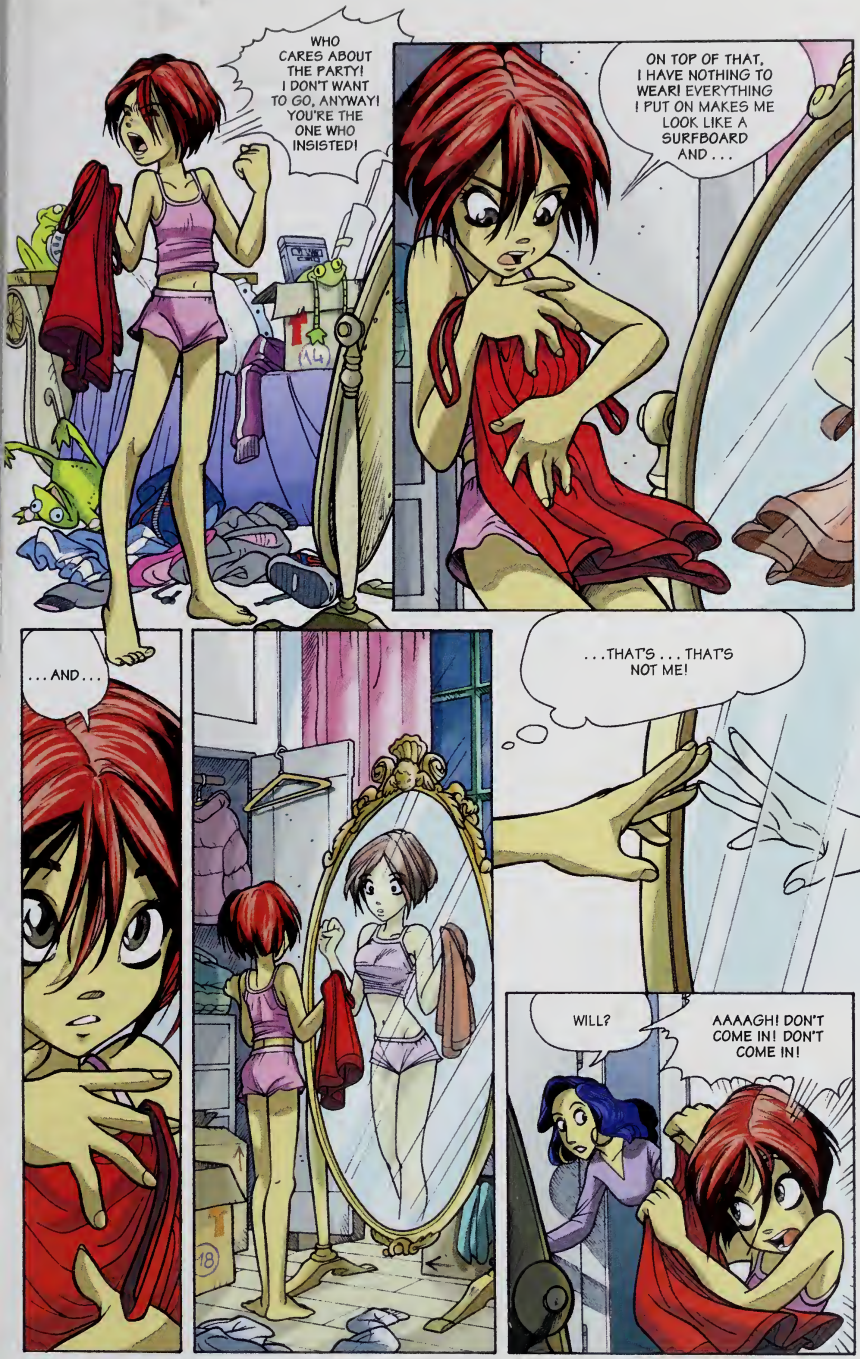

NEAT! LOOKS LIKE TONIGHT WE'LL ALL BE AT HOME TOGETHER, HUH, BIG SISTER?
SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE TOAD!


CROAK!
UGH! WHY CAN'T ROOMS JUST CLEAN THEMSELVES?

HUH?
SLAM
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLAC
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
UGH!
STUPID DOOR!
I WONDER WHY IT
WON'T . . .
WOW!

I—I—I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. ALL IT TOOK WAS THE THOUGHT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!
WHAT IRMA CAN DO IN CLASS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO LATELY!
IN CLASS I CONTROL EVERYTHING JUST BY WANTING IT!
AND NOW, THIS . . .
". . . WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?"
CORNELIA! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
TO THE PARTY! MY ROOM'S CLEAN!
CORNELIA? FOR YOUR SAKE, THAT HAD BETTER BE TRUE! CORNELIA!
HEY! DID I MISS SOMETHING?
HI, POP!

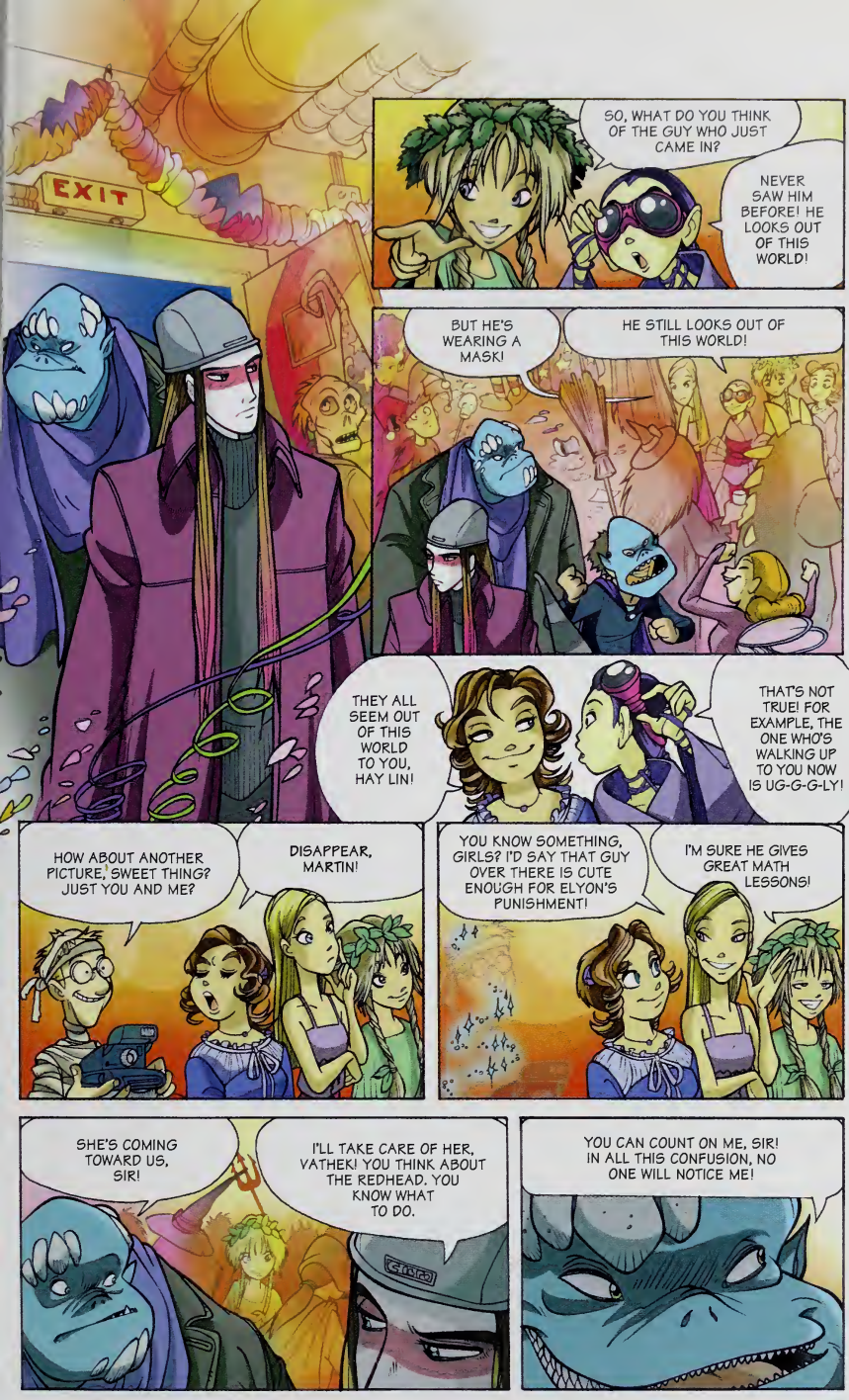
THE SHEFFIELD INSTITUTE GYMNASIUM, 8:00 P.M.
GREAT PARTY!
Sheffield Institute's HALLOWEEN
GREAT DRESS, HAY LIN!
THANK YOU, MA'AM! YOURS ISN'T TOO SHABBY, EITHER!
SHE JUST THREW ON THE FIRST THING SHE SAW!
BON APPÉTIT! FROM THE LOOKS OF YOUR STASH, I'D SAY THAT YOU ALL LIKE THE BUFFET!
IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, PRINCIPAL. WE'RE ONLY STOCKING UP ON OUR WINTER SUPPLIES.
WHICH MEANS THAT YOU'RE READY TO SPEND ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR IN HIBERNATION? EXCELLENT!
WITCH! AT MIDNIGHT YOU WON'T FEEL LIKE LAUGHING MUCH!
AT WILL'S HOUSE...
WILL! IT'S SUPERLATE! AND WE STILL HAVE TO PICK UP YOUR FRIEND!


WHO CARES ABOUT THE PARTY! I DON'T WANT TO GO, ANYWAY! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSISTED!
ON TOP OF THAT, I HAVE NOTHING TO WEAR! EVERYTHING I PUT ON MAKES ME LOOK LIKE A SURFBOARD AND . . .
. . . AND . . .
. . . THAT'S . . . THAT'S NOT ME!
WILL?
AAAAGH! DON'T COME IN! DON'T COME IN!

?
WHY AREN'T YOU DRESSED YET? AREN'T YOU GOING TO PUT THAT BLACK ONE ON? IT USED TO BE YOUR FAVORITE!
THE ONLY BLACK THING THAT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON ME IS A GARBAGE BAG!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'S WRONG?
I LOOK LIKE— NO, I AM— A BROOMSTICK!
DON'T BE SILLY! YOU ARE A SPECIAL GIRL WHO WILL MEET NEW, SPECIAL FRIENDS AT THE PARTY.
LOOK AT YOURSELF, WILL. YOU HAVE TO LOVE YOURSELF, BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY WAY THAT YOU WILL ALLOW OTHER PEOPLE TO APPRECIATE YOUR QUALITIES.
"LET'S GET GOING! THE PARTY WON'T LAST FOREVER!"
HAVE A GREAT TIME! HEY, TARANEE, TAKE GOOD CARE OF WILL FOR ME!
SEE YOU LATER!
SHE'S A SHY GIRL! PUT A LITTLE FIRE INTO HER!
MAYBE I'M NOT THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB, BUT I'LL TRY!

THERE'S STILL TIME, TARANEE! LET'S TURN AROUND AND GET OUT OF HERE!
I THINK IT'S TOO LATE!
PARTY
HI!
HOURS LATE— "FASHIONABLY LATE," YOU MIGHT SAY!
CORNELIA!
IT'S MY FAULT! I LOST TRACK OF TIME.
HEAR THAT, IRMA? THAT'S WHAT I CALL AN ORIGINAL EXCUSE!
SHE GOT HERE LATE, TOO. AND DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT EXCUSE SHE CAME UP WITH?
THERE'S NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT! ALL OF THE CLOTHES IN MY WARDROBE TRANSFORMED AND CHANGED COLOR!
AH
AH AH AH
IT'S THE TRUTH! AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!
I BELIEVE IT!
HOW ABOUT A PICTURE, GALS?
SMILE, LADIES!
I'LL NEVER TELL YOU ANY SECRETS AGAIN, SO THERE!

IN CANDRACAR
THE NEW GUARDIANS, TIBOR! LOOK AT THEM!
THEY ARE CLOSE. . . .
. . . BUT NOT YET UNITED.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG! THE SECRET WILL SOON BE REVEALED, AND THE FIVE WILL BE TOGETHER AT LAST!
FIVE? I SEE SIX, SIR!
ONE OF THEM WILL BETRAY THE OTHERS, MY FRIEND. . . .
"THE MOMENT THEY UNITE WILL ALSO BE A MOMENT OF BETRAYAL!"
THIRTY MINUTES TILL MIDNIGHT, MY FRIENDS! HALLOWEEN IS HERE! A BIG HELLO TO THE GREAT PUMPKIN! YEAH!
CUTE, HUH? HIS NAME'S MATT! HE'S THE ONE ELYON LIKES. HE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL!
I THOUGHT GUYS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL WERE ALL LIKE URIAH!


EXIT
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE GUY WHO JUST CAME IN?
NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE! HE LOOKS OUT OF THIS WORLD!
BUT HE'S WEARING A MASK!
HE STILL LOOKS OUT OF THIS WORLD!
THEY ALL SEEM OUT OF THIS WORLD TO YOU, HAY LIN!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! FOR EXAMPLE, THE ONE WHO'S WALKING UP TO YOU NOW IS UG-G-G-LY!
HOW ABOUT ANOTHER PICTURE, SWEET THING? JUST YOU AND ME?
DISAPPEAR, MARTIN!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, GIRLS? I'D SAY THAT GUY OVER THERE IS CUTE ENOUGH FOR ELYON'S PUNISHMENT!
I'M SURE HE GIVES GREAT MATH LESSONS!
SHE'S COMING TOWARD US, SIR!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER, VATHEK! YOU THINK ABOUT THE REDHEAD. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, SIR! IN ALL THIS CONFUSION, NO ONE WILL NOTICE ME!

WE'RE ACCEPTING BETS ON ELYON, LADIES! I SAY SHE WON'T DO IT!
WELL, SHE DID LOOK PRETTY DETERMINED!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, WILL?
...

HEY!
MAKE WAY! FOOD COMING THROUGH!
I SAY ELYON CAN DO IT!

AARGH! I ALMOST HAD HER!

I GUESS SO. BUT DO YOU HEAR A STRANGE HUMMING NOISE, BY ANY CHANCE?
EVERY-THING OKAY?
THE MUSIC IS TOO LOUD! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE.

UM . . . H—HI!
HELLO, ELYON!
YOU . . . YOU KNOW MY NAME? WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME'S CEDRIC.
AND I KNOW A LOT ABOUT YOU!
UHHH . . .
WILL! ARE YOU OKAY?
JUST A DIZZY SPELL, TARANEE! MAYBE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR WOULD DO ME SOME GOOD!
WE'LL GO WITH YOU!
AND NOW WHERE ARE THEY GOING? I MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THEM!
HEY! COOL COSTUME, BUD!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, MISERABLE CREATURE!
KRUMP
OUCH! WHY DON'T YOU LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU BIG OX!
HUMANS! MAYBE THEY WOULDN'T BE SO FRIENDLY IF THEY KNEW THAT THIS WAS WHAT I REALLY LOOK LIKE!

WHO . . . WHO SAID THAT?
I DID!
BY THE MOONS OF GAAHN! AN INVISIBLE BEING!
OKAY, SO I'M NOT VERY POPULAR HERE AT SCHOOL, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB MY NOSE IN IT!
IN ANY CASE, GREAT MASK! YOU DESERVE A PHOTO!
WAMP
AARGH!
MY EYES! AAAARRRGGGHHH! I CAN'T STAND LIGHT!
PFFT
PFFT
AAAAARRRGGGHH!
CRANKLE
HEY!
HUH?
SCRASH
IT CAME OUT A BIT BLURRY, I'D SAY!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, MICROBE!
YOUR ATTENTION FOR A MOMENT, FOLKS! ONLY THREE MINUTES LEFT TILL MIDNIGHT!

. . . AND NOW IT'S TIME TO BURN OUR JACK-O'-LANTERN! BUT FIRST, WE'LL AWARD THE PRIZE FOR THE EVENING'S BEST COSTUME!
LET'S SEE. . . . I COULD TURN YOU INTO A WART, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE THAT ANYONE WOULD NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE.
. . . AND BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . .
. . . THE WINNER!
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME?
I'M AFRAID NOT!
AND NOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S THE GRAND FINALE! THE PERSON WITH THE BEST COSTUME GETS THE HONOR OF SETTING FIRE TO THE JACK-O'-LANTERN!
YEEEH!
YAHOO!
LET ME GO! PUT ME DOWN! YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE! YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR THIS!
HALLOWEEN! HALLOWEEN!
HALLOWEEN!
HALLOWEEN!
COME ON, BE A SPORT! BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS GREAT MASK, HOW ABOUT GETTING OUR BONFIRE GOING?

NO ONE TREATS VATHEK IN THIS MANNER! YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR, YOU REPULSIVE MASS OF CELLS!
YOU'RE SAMSON FROM CLASSROOM 4B, AREN'T YOU? I RECOGNIZE YOU, AND I DON'T FIND YOU THE LEAST BIT AMUSING!
HERE WE GO, URIAH!
MAYBE . . . PUTTING THOSE ROCKETS INSIDE THE PUMPKIN WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA.
TOO LATE TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW, NIGEL, MY FRIEND! JUST RELAX, AND ENJOY THE SHOW!
". . . 'CAUSE I THINK IT'S GONNA BE DYNAMITE!"
UM, I'M SAMSON, MA'AM.
HUH? SO WHO ARE YOU?
BEFORE THE MONSTROUS BEING CAN REPLY, THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE. IT IS MIDNIGHT—TIME FOR THE FIREWORKS.
POW
KRA-POW
EEEEEK!
LOOK OUT!

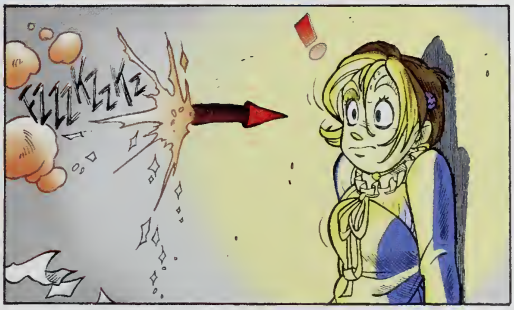
HA-HA-HA! LOOK AT 'EM RUN!
WOW!
EVERYTHING'S ON FIRE, URIAH! THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!

THE GIRL! I CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE PASS ME BY!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! QUICK!

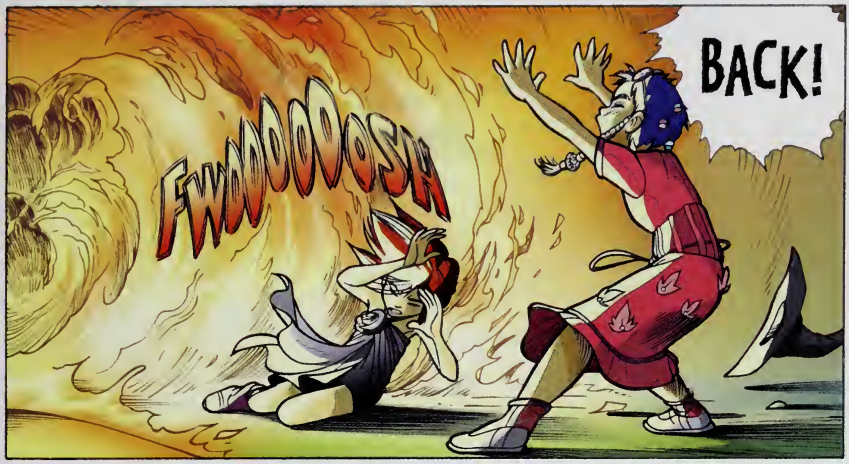
YEOW!

LOOK OUT, IRMA!
EEEEK!

STOP.


ZZZZKZZZZ

FWEEFOOOOO...
WITH A WAVE OF TARANEE'S HAND, THE ROCKET SUDDENLY CHANGES COURSE . . .
FWEEOOOOOOOO
. . . WITH SOME UNEXPECTED RESULTS!
BWOOOM
AHHH!
WILL!

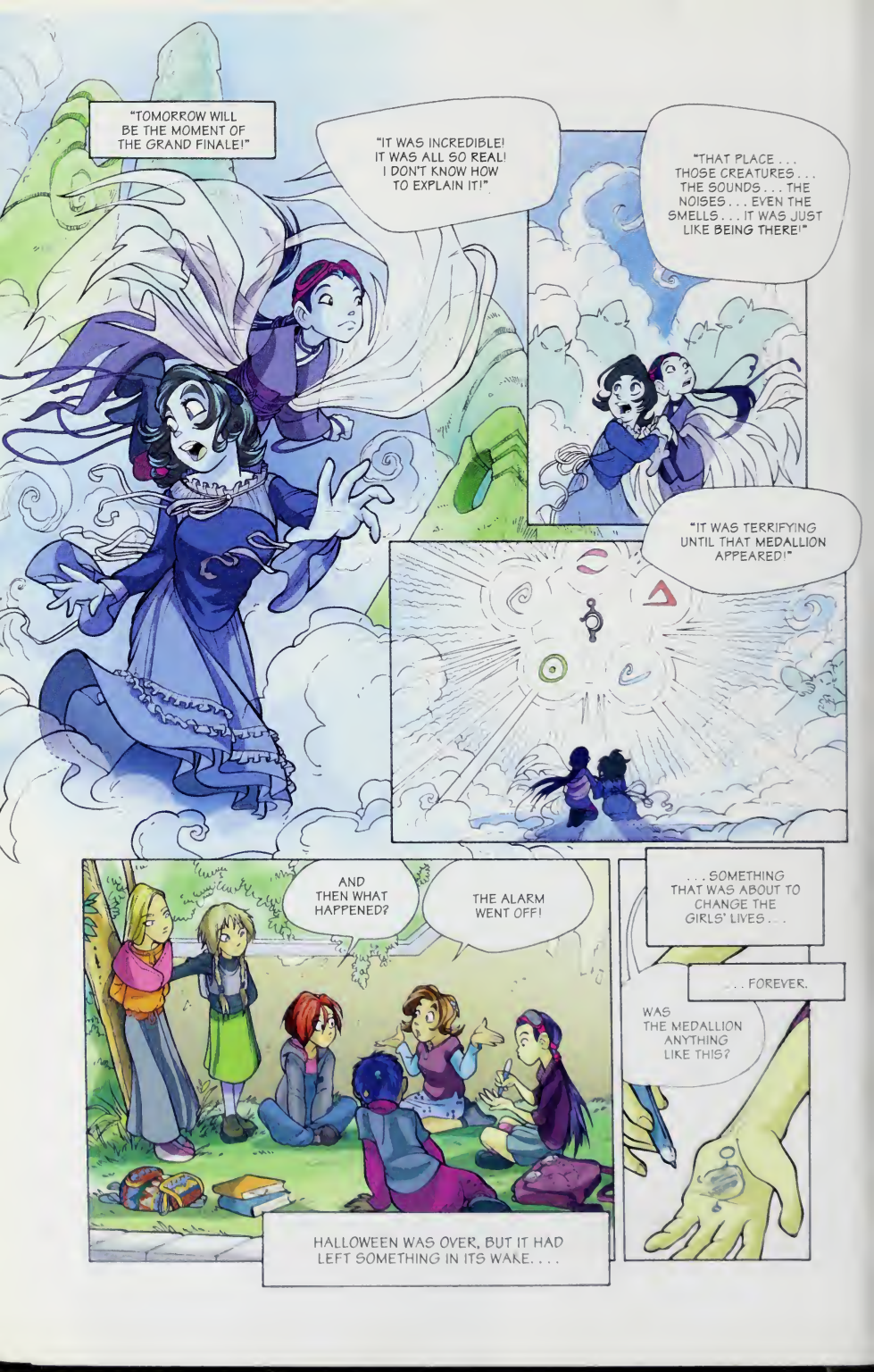

FWOOOOOSH
BACK!

I THINK YOU OWE US AN EXPLANATION, TARANEE! HOW... HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
I DON'T KNOW, WILL.

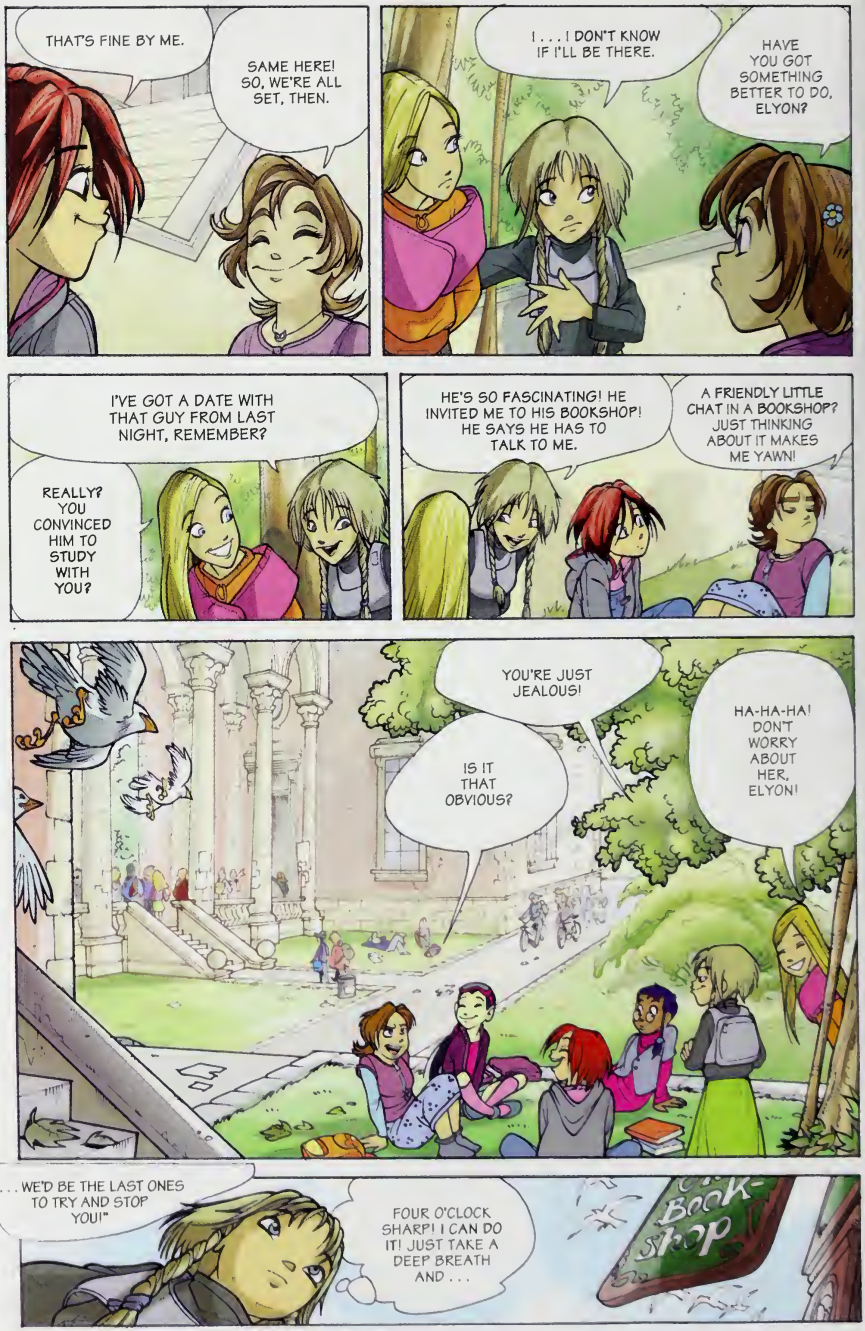
I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA...

"THE PARTY IS OVER, MY LORD."

YOU'RE MISTAKEN, VATHEK. THE PARTY HAS NOT YET BEGUN!

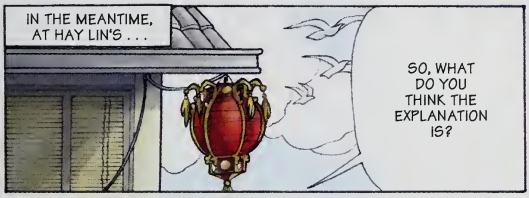

"TOMORROW WILL BE THE MOMENT OF THE GRAND FINALE!"
"IT WAS INCREDIBLE! IT WAS ALL SO REAL! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT!"
"THAT PLACE . . . THOSE CREATURES . . . THE SOUNDS . . . THE NOISES . . . EVEN THE SMELLS . . . IT WAS JUST LIKE BEING THERE!"
"IT WAS TERRIFYING UNTIL THAT MEDALLION APPEARED!"
AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
THE ALARM WENT OFF!
. . . SOMETHING THAT WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE THE GIRLS' LIVES . . .
. . . FOREVER.
WAS THE MEDALLION ANYTHING LIKE THIS?
HALLOWEEN WAS OVER, BUT IT HAD LEFT SOMETHING IN ITS WAKE. . . .

HANG ON A SECOND! THIS IS THE SAME THING THAT I DREAMED ABOUT!
GOSH, YEAH!
YOU, TOO?
NEITHER IRMA NOR I HAVE EVER DESCRIBED IT! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
SIMPLE . . .
I SAW IT IN MY DREAMS, TOO!
STOP IT!! JUST STOP IT!!!
THIS STUFF. . . THIS STUFF IS SCARING ME! WHAT'S GOING ON?
LET'S BE REASONABLE HERE. STRANGE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO JUST ABOUT ALL OF US. . . .
CLEAN
. . . LITTLE THINGS: STRANGE, INEXPLICABLE THINGS THAT CERTAINLY AREN'T JUST OUR IMAGINATION!
AND SO, SHERLOCK?
SO, NOTHING! MAYBE WE ALL NEED TO TALK IT OVER CALMLY! BUT NOT HERE AND NOT NOW!
CORNELIA'S RIGHT! HOW ABOUT MEETING AT MY HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON?


THAT'S FINE BY ME.
SAME HERE! SO, WE'RE ALL SET, THEN.
I . . . I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE THERE.
HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING BETTER TO DO, ELYON?
I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THAT GUY FROM LAST NIGHT, REMEMBER?
REALLY? YOU CONVINCED HIM TO STUDY WITH YOU?
HE'S SO FASCINATING! HE INVITED ME TO HIS BOOKSHOP! HE SAYS HE HAS TO TALK TO ME.
A FRIENDLY LITTLE CHAT IN A BOOKSHOP? JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME YAWN!
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS!
IS IT THAT OBVIOUS?
HA-HA-HA! DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER, ELYON!
". . . WE'D BE THE LAST ONES TO TRY AND STOP YOU!"
FOUR O'CLOCK SHARP! I CAN DO IT! JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND . . .
BOOK-SHOP

UM . . . HELLO? ANYBODY HERE?
I'M RIGHT HERE, ELYON!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
!


IN THE MEANTIME, AT HAY LIN'S . . .
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE EXPLANATION IS?

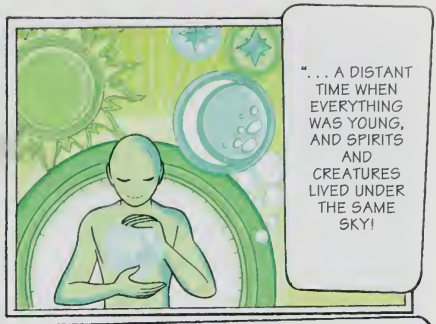
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THERE HAS TO BE AN EXPLANATION!
NO! THERE'S A REASON BEHIND EVERYTHING. AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!

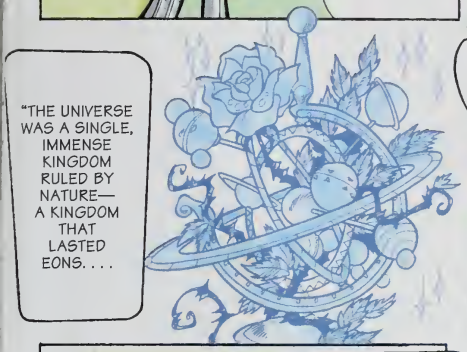
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN MAGIC OR PARANORMAL PHENOMENA!
MYSTERIOUS DREAMS, CLOTHES THAT CHANGE COLOR, FLYING OBJECTS, PREMONITIONS! WHAT DO YOU CALL THOSE?

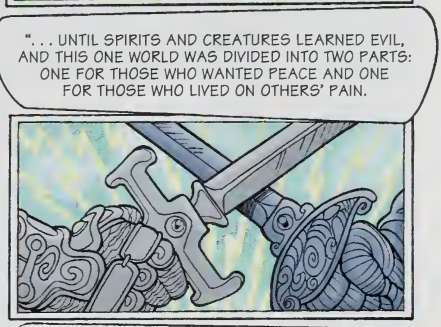
CHOMP. . . GROWING PAINS?

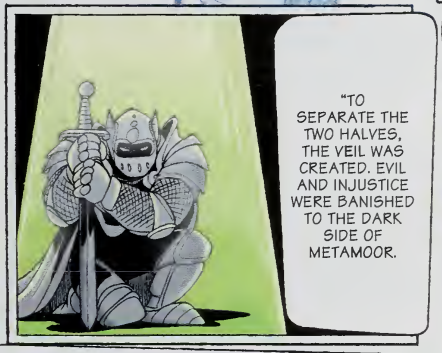
MAYBE THE MEDALLION IS THE ANSWER WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
LOOK AT THIS. I'VE SKETCHED A BETTER COPY.
I HOPE I DIDN'T FORGET ANYTHING.
I'D SAY THAT IT'S ALL THERE.
HMMM . . . YEP, THAT LOOKS A LOT LIKE IT.
. . . BUT PERHAPS YOU WOULD SAY THIS LOOKS EVEN MORE LIKE IT!
GRANDMA!
THAT'S IT! WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU WILL BE KEEPING IT NOW! THIS IS THE HEART OF CANDRACAR!
AND YOU ARE THE NEW GUARDIANS!
WH—WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

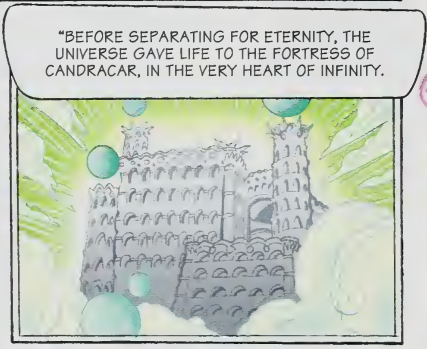
LET ME TELL YOU A STORY, GIRLS! A STORY AS OLD AS TIME . . .


". . . A DISTANT TIME WHEN EVERYTHING WAS YOUNG, AND SPIRITS AND CREATURES LIVED UNDER THE SAME SKY!

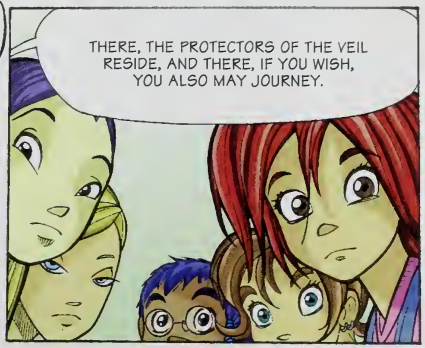

"THE UNIVERSE WAS A SINGLE, IMMENSE KINGDOM RULED BY NATURE— A KINGDOM THAT LASTED EONS. . . .


". . . UNTIL SPIRITS AND CREATURES LEARNED EVIL, AND THIS ONE WORLD WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS: ONE FOR THOSE WHO WANTED PEACE AND ONE FOR THOSE WHO LIVED ON OTHERS' PAIN.

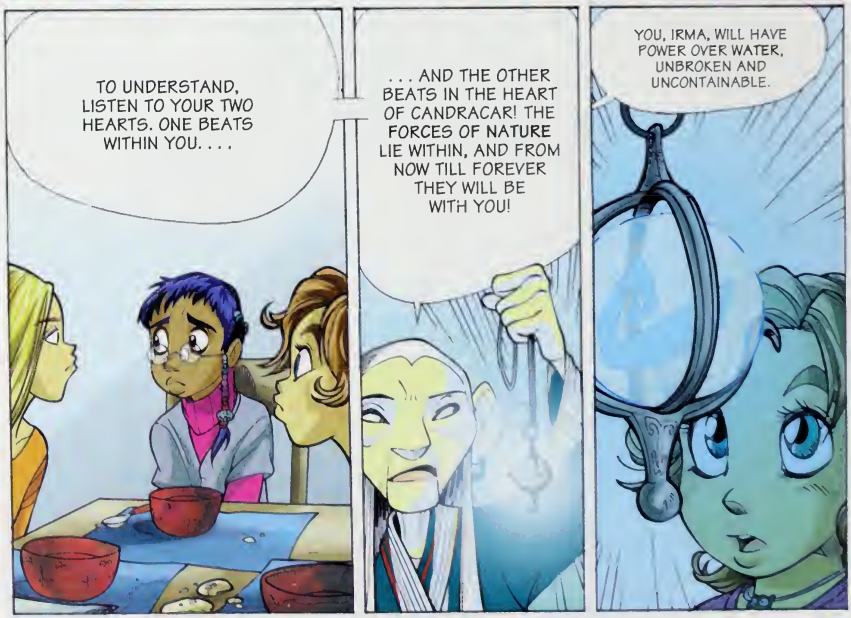

"TO SEPARATE THE TWO HALVES, THE VEIL WAS CREATED. EVIL AND INJUSTICE WERE BANISHED TO THE DARK SIDE OF METAMOOR.


"BEFORE SEPARATING FOR ETERNITY, THE UNIVERSE GAVE LIFE TO THE FORTRESS OF CANDRACAR, IN THE VERY HEART OF INFINITY.

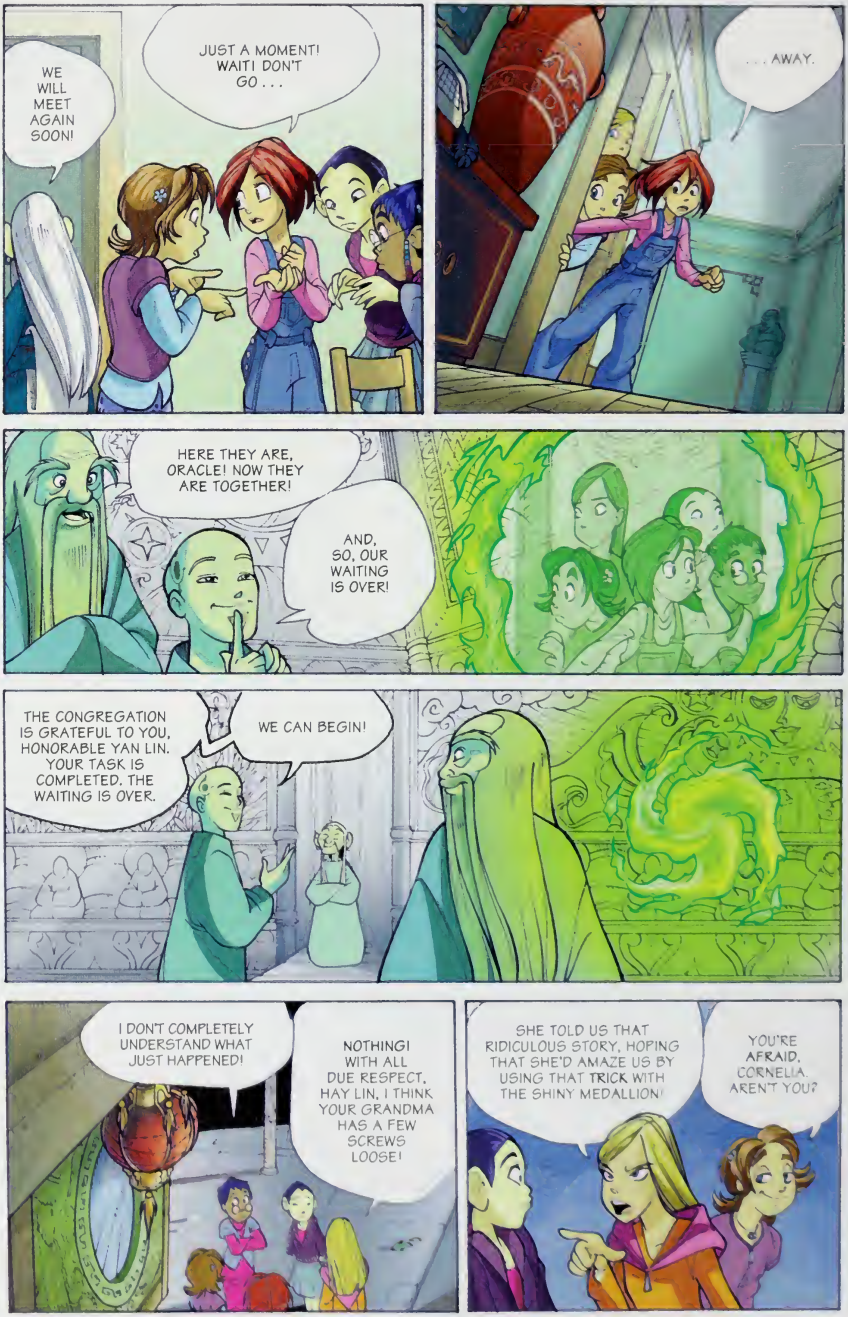
"THERE, THE MIGHTIEST SPIRITS AND CREATURES ARE ON GUARD . . ."


THERE, THE PROTECTORS OF THE VEIL RESIDE, AND THERE, IF YOU WISH, YOU ALSO MAY JOURNEY.

IT IS NOT BY MERE CHANCE THAT YOU ARE HERE. YOU ARE THE NEW GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL! THE MOST IMPORTANT WARRIORS IN A BATTLE THAT BEGAN THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO!
THE VEIL?
THE WORLD IS MADE OF TWO VERY DIFFERENT FORCES, AND THE VEIL IS WHAT DIVIDES THEM.
A BARRIER THAT HAS NOW BECOME DANGEROUSLY FRAGILE!
I . . . I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND.


TO UNDERSTAND, LISTEN TO YOUR TWO HEARTS. ONE BEATS WITHIN YOU. . . .
. . . AND THE OTHER BEATS IN THE HEART OF CANDRACAR! THE FORCES OF NATURE LIE WITHIN, AND FROM NOW TILL FOREVER THEY WILL BE WITH YOU!
YOU, IRMA, WILL HAVE POWER OVER WATER, UNBROKEN AND UNCONTAINABLE.

TO YOU, STRONG CORNELIA, THE POWER OF EARTH.
TO YOU, GENEROUS TARANEE, THE DIFFICULT GIFT OF FIRE.
AND YOU, MY LITTLE HAY LIN, WILL BE FREE AND LIGHT AS THE AIR!
AND ME?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND, WILL!
YOU SHALL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
AH!
THIS . . . THIS IS MAGIC!


WE WILL MEET AGAIN SOON!
JUST A MOMENT! WAIT! DON'T GO . . .
. . . AWAY.
HERE THEY ARE, ORACLE! NOW THEY ARE TOGETHER!
AND, SO, OUR WAITING IS OVER!
THE CONGREGATION IS GRATEFUL TO YOU, HONORABLE YAN LIN. YOUR TASK IS COMPLETED. THE WAITING IS OVER.
WE CAN BEGIN!
I DON'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND WHAT JUST HAPPENED!
NOTHING! WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, HAY LIN, I THINK YOUR GRANDMA HAS A FEW SCREWS LOOSE!
SHE TOLD US THAT RIDICULOUS STORY, HOPING THAT SHE'D AMAZE US BY USING THAT TRICK WITH THE SHINY MEDALLION!
YOU'RE AFRAID, CORNELIA. AREN'T YOU?

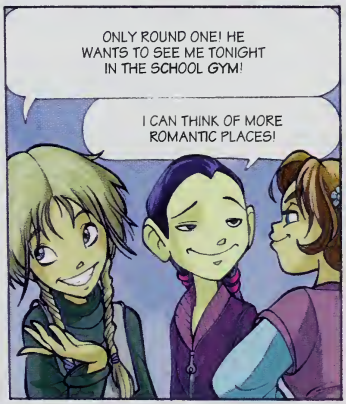
I DON'T BELIEVE IN FAIRY TALES, IRMA! AND I'M GOING HOME!
DON'T WORRY, I KNOW HER! SHE'LL CHANGE HER MIND.
OPEN

IF WE'RE SOME KIND OF SUPERGROUP, WE SHOULD HAVE COSTUMES, DON'T YOU THINK?
AND A NAME, TOO! WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT "W.I.T.C.H."?

IT'S OUR INITIALS PUT TOGETHER! W-I-T-C-H! ISN'T THAT COOL?
ALL THAT INK IS GOING TO END UP POISONING YOU, HAY LIN!
IT'S ALREADY POISONED HER! W.I.T.C.H.! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING SO RIDICULOUS!
WITCH!

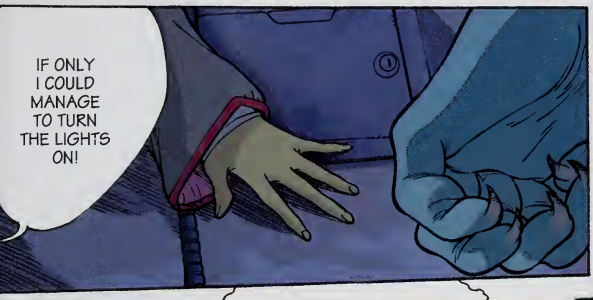
I DON'T FEEL LIKE A WITCH. WHAT DO YOU SAY, WILL?
I—I DON'T KNOW! I'M STILL A BIT CONFUSED. I DON'T . . .

LOOK WHO'S HERE!
GUYS!
ELYON! IS YOUR DATE ALREADY OVER?


ONLY ROUND ONE! HE WANTS TO SEE ME TONIGHT IN THE SCHOOL GYM!
I CAN THINK OF MORE ROMANTIC PLACES!

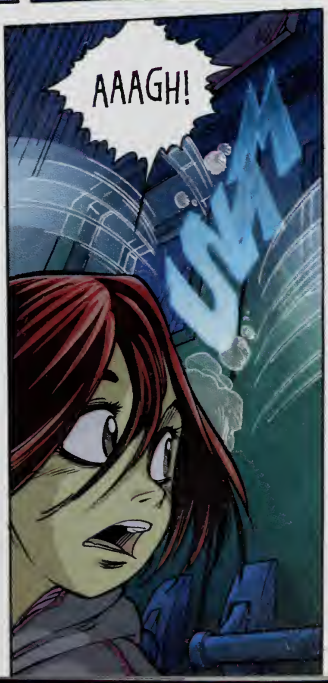
HE SAID THAT IT WAS JUST THE RIGHT PLACE TO TELL ME A SPECIAL SECRET!
WELL, IF THAT'S TRUE . . . WHY NOT?
WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH ME? WITH YOU GUYS THERE, I'D FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE!
NEVER DENY A FRIEND A FAVOR! ESPECIALLY IF SHE LETS YOU STICK YOUR NOSE IN HER BUSINESS!
SAME GOES FOR ME!
I'LL BE THERE TOO, ELYON!
AND YOU, TARANEE? YOU'LL COME TOO, WON'T YOU?
I DON'T THINK SO! MY FOLKS WILL NEVER LET ME GO OUT AGAIN TONIGHT!
THAT MAKES THREE OF US! YOU THINK THAT'LL DO?
YEAH, I THINK THAT'LL DO!
". . . THAT'LL DO JUST FINE!"
THE GATE IS OPEN.
ENTRANCE
ELYON MUST ALREADY BE HERE! LET'S GO IN!

MAYBE IRMA IS RIGHT! M—M—MAYBE IT'S ALL A BIG JOKE!
ELYON! ARE YOU HERE?
ELYON IS AT HOME SLEEPING. TRUST ME! IT'S PITCH-DARK IN HERE! LET'S GO!

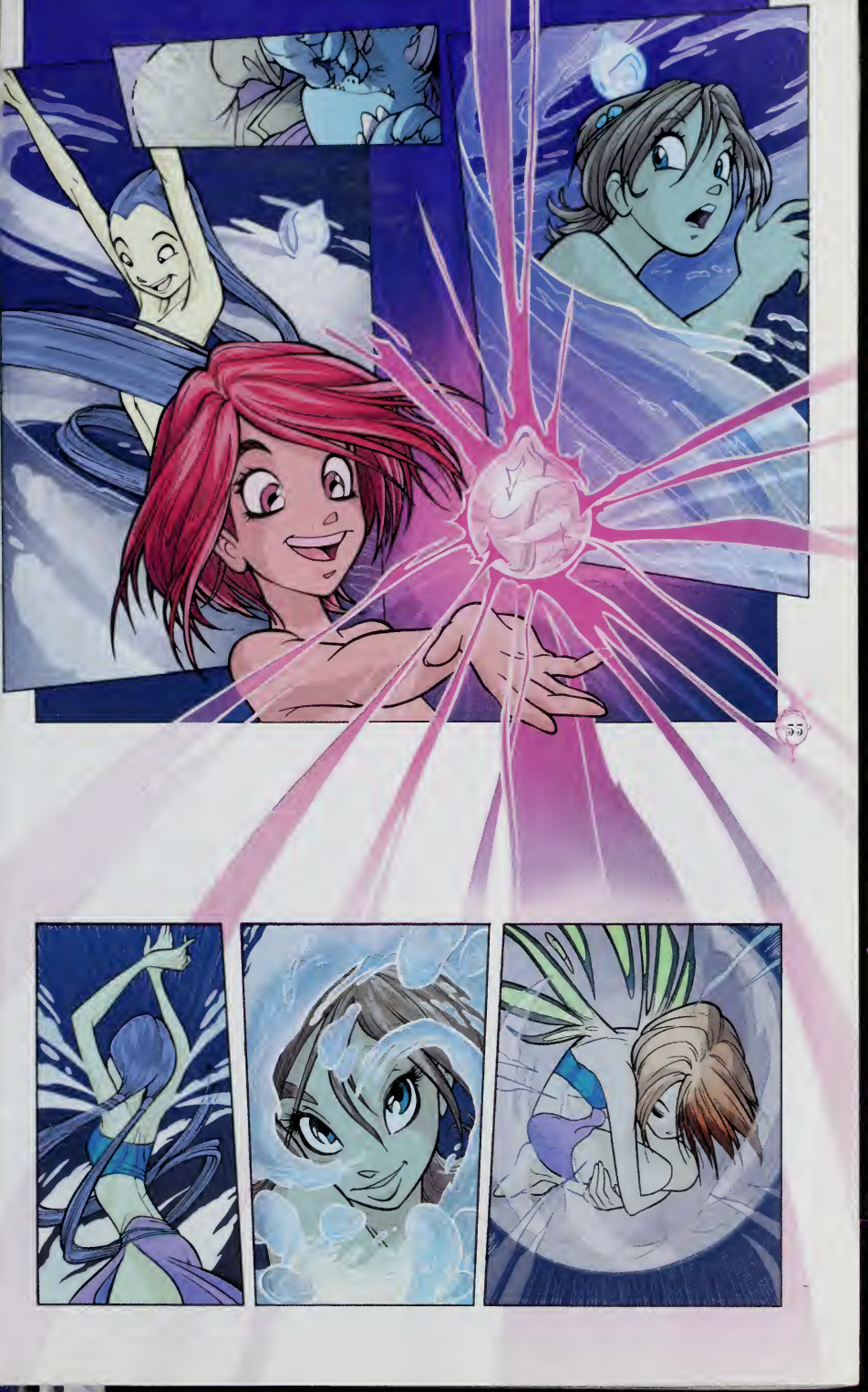

IF ONLY I COULD MANAGE TO TURN THE LIGHTS ON!

AAAHH

WELCOME, GUARDIANS!
LET ME GO, YOU BIG APE! IF THIS IS A JOKE, IT'S NOT FUNNY!

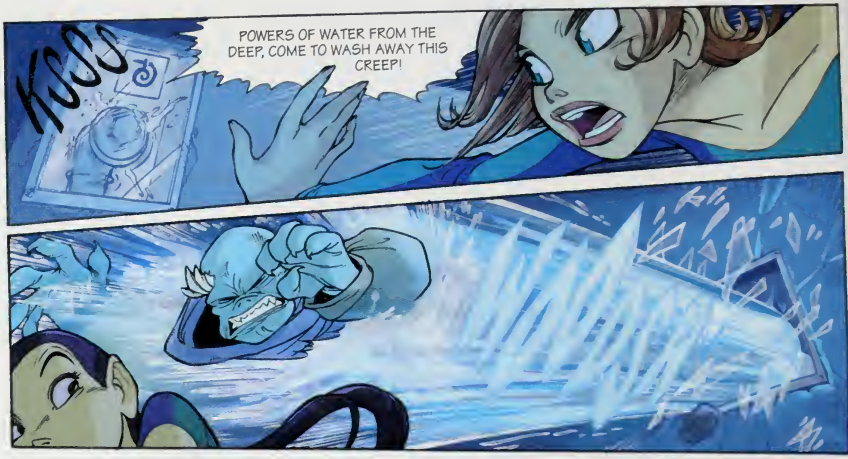

AAAGH!

WH—WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TO DESTROY YOU, GUARDIANS. TO DESTROY YOU AND TAKE OVER YOUR WORLD!
BY NOW THE VEIL IS WEAK, AND WITHOUT YOU, VICTORY WILL BE EASY!
W—WEAK?
WHEN A MILLENNIUM COMES TO AN END, ITS WEAVING LOOSENS . . .
. . . AND IT IS THEN THAT WE SEE THE PORTALS THAT LEAD TO YOUR WORLD . . .
. . . LIGHT FILTERS THROUGH ITS PORES, PIERCING THROUGH OUR DARKNESS . . .
UGH!
WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THEM, MASTER?
TEAR OPEN A PIT AND THROW THEM IN, VATHEK.
HELP!!
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS! OF COURSE. THE HEART OF CANDRACAR MAYBE THIS IS THE TIME TO USE IT!
HAY LIN! IRMA! WATER! AIR!
WH—WHAT'S HAPPENING?



WE HAVE WINGS!
THIS IS MAGIC, HAY LIN!
DESTROY THEM, VATHEK.
NOT QUICK ENOUGH, YOU BIG BEAST!
ZAP
KZZZASH

KAM
WHOOO
AAGH!
HOLD ON, IRMA!
GET OUT OF THERE! FLY AWAY!
I CAN FLY, YES! I'M AIR!
OUCH!
YOUR POWERS ARE USELESS IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THEM, LITTLE BIRD!
HEY!


KOOO
POWERS OF WATER FROM THE DEEP, COME TO WASH AWAY THIS CREEP!

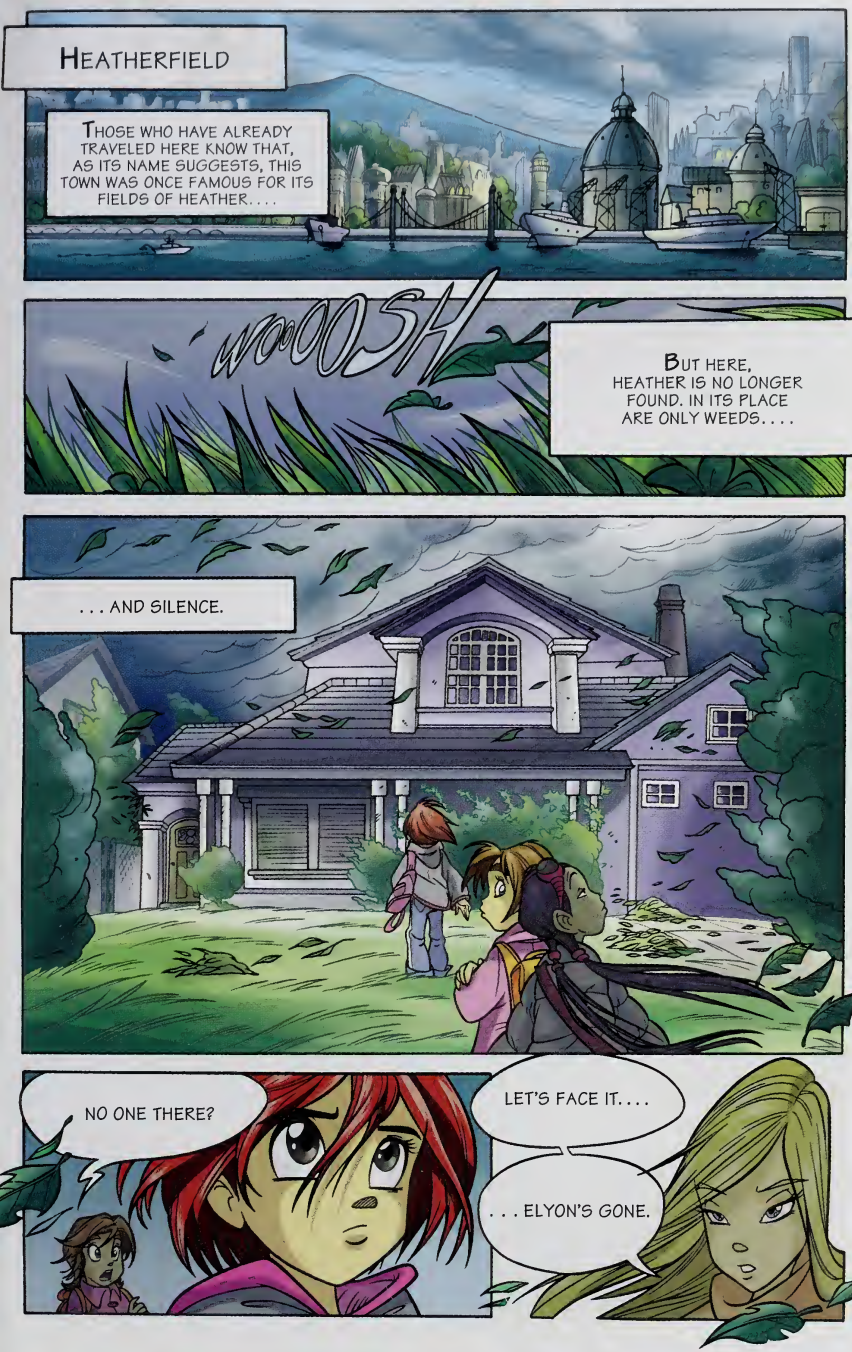
WHAT KIND OF RHYME WAS THAT?
WELL, IT MIGHT BE A BIT SILLY, BUT I LIKE IT, OKAY?
HURRY! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

STOP! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
AND YOU— WHO ARE YOU?

DO HURRY, MASTER! THE PORTAL IS ABOUT TO CLOSE!
IT IS NOT YET TIME, VATHEK!
NOW!
NOOOO!
NO . . .
OUR FIRST BATTLE ENDS HERE . . .
. . . BUT THE WAR THAT IS TO COME WILL BE MUCH LONGER, AND MUCH MORE PAINFUL!
AU REVOIR, GUARDIANS!

THE FLAMES ARE TOO HIGH! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
NOTHING! THE FIREMEN WILL GET HERE ANY MOMENT!
BUT THEY CAN'T FIND US HERE— AT LEAST, NOT DRESSED LIKE THIS!
HEY! AS EASILY SAID AS DONE!
GET OUT, QUICK! GET OUT!
A—A—AND NOW WHAT, WILL?
I DON'T KNOW, IRMA. BUT I'D RATHER TALK ABOUT IT TOMORROW. TOO MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TONIGHT.
ALL I WANT TO DO RIGHT NOW IS GO HOME!

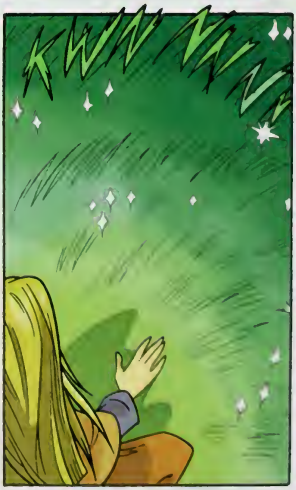
2


HEATHERFIELD
THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY TRAVELED HERE KNOW THAT, AS ITS NAME SUGGESTS, THIS TOWN WAS ONCE FAMOUS FOR ITS FIELDS OF HEATHER....
WOOOSH
BUT HERE, HEATHER IS NO LONGER FOUND. IN ITS PLACE ARE ONLY WEEDS....
... AND SILENCE.
NO ONE THERE?
LET'S FACE IT....
... ELYON'S GONE.

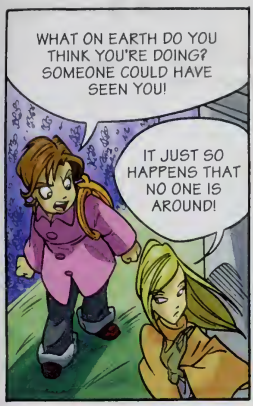
BUT SHE DIDN'T JUST VANISH INTO THIN AIR! PEOPLE DON'T DISAPPEAR JUST LIKE THAT!
I THINK WE'LL SEE HER AGAIN. . . .

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
I CAN FEEL IT, TARANEE! IT'S SORT OF A HUNCH. . . .
. . . AFTER ALL, ARE WE OR ARE WE NOT GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL?
RIGHT. . .

WHAT . . . WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T WORRY. . .


KWIN

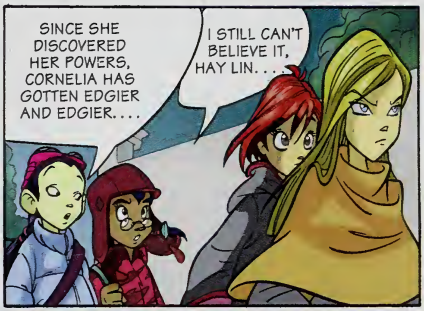
. . . JUST IN CASE SHE DECIDES TO COME BACK TOMORROW!


WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? SOMEONE COULD HAVE SEEN YOU!
IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT NO ONE IS AROUND!

BUT SOMEONE COULD HAVE BEEN!
BUT NO ONE IS!

BROMM

BRR-BROOOo
UH-OH . . . LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER STORM IS COMING OUR WAY. . . .
ANOTHER ONE. . .
. . . AND THIS TIME IT'S A BIG ONE! LET'S GO!


SINCE SHE DISCOVERED HER POWERS, CORNELIA HAS GOTTEN EDGIER AND EDGIER. . . .
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, HAY LIN. . . .

. . . THIS IS ALL REALLY HAPPENING TO US!

IT ALL BEGAN A MONTH AGO. . . .
. . . AND . . . AND IN THE END THE TWO MONSTERS VANISHED! IT WAS INCREDIBLE!
BUT ELYON DID THE MOST INCREDIBLE THING OF ALL!
VENDS
SHE LED US STRAIGHT INTO A TRAP! THE "DATE" IN THE GYM WAS FOR US!
I SPOKE WITH CEDRIC, THAT GUY FROM THE BOOKSTORE. . . .
HE SAID THAT HE HADN'T HAD ANY NEWS FROM ELYON! SINCE THE PARTY, HE HASN'T SEEN HER OR HEARD FROM HER. . . .
SO SHE MADE IT ALL UP! BUT WHY?
WELL . . . WE'LL ASK HER AS SOON AS SHE GETS BACK TO SCHOOL!
SHE HASN'T SHOWN UP FOR THREE DAYS, AND NO ONE ANSWERS AT HER HOUSE!
WHAT'S GOING ON, WILL?
DON'T ASK ME. . . .
. . . THE ANSWER IS HERE!

MY GRANDMA'S STORY WAS RIGHT! WE'VE REALLY GOT POWERS!
LISTEN, HAY LIN. . . .
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE! IF NOT, TRY. . .
TRY? TRY TO DO WHAT?
LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF, FOR INSTANCE.
AAAGH!
DID. . . DID I DO THAT?
YES, CORNELIA! THE POWER OF EARTH IS YOURS NOW.
. . . WHILE YOU, TARANEE, HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE POWER OF FIRE!
HEY! BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING, LET ME GET OUT OF THE WAY!
I'M REALLY SCARED, WILL! I WANT TO UNDERSTAND ALL THIS!

"WE ALL WANT TO UNDERSTAND. . . . BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME."
HOW ABOUT A SNACK AT MY HOUSE?
OKAY!
THANKS, BUT I REALLY CAN'T. . . .
SEE YOU LATER!
BYE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
WHERE'S HAY LIN RUNNING OFF TO?
HOME! HER GRANDMOTHER ISN'T FEELING WELL, AND SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT HER. . . .
BRROOOOM

INSIDE WILL'S HOUSE
COME ON IN, NO ONE'S HERE! MY MOTHER WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.
HELLO?
MAN! I'M BEAT!
WITH ALL WE'RE GOING THROUGH, I CAN BELIEVE IT. . . . BUT DO YOU THINK WE'RE TAKING THIS ALL TOO LIGHTLY?
I MEAN . . . WE SHOULD BE TERRIFIED! WE HAVE STRANGE POWERS, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
WE SUDDENLY FIND OURSELVES IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING INCREDIBLE, AND WE'RE ACTING LIKE IT IS THE MOST NORMAL THING IN THE WORLD!
WE BATTLED MONSTERS. . . . ONE OF OUR FRIENDS HAS COMPLETELY VANISHED. . . . AND WE'RE HERE HAVING A SNACK!
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN ALL THIS?
HEY . . . MAYBE WE'VE GOT A FEW SCREWS LOOSE, AND WE NEVER REALIZED IT BEFORE!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, IRMA. . . .

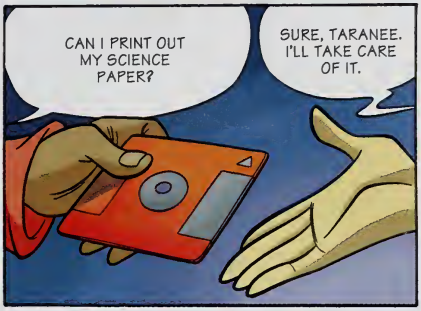
NO, THERE'S SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER BEHIND ALL OF THIS! I STILL DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT, BUT THERE IS!
AS SOON AS HAY LIN'S GRANDMA GETS BETTER, WE'LL GO ASK HER A FEW QUESTIONS....
...BUT UNTIL THEN, WE'D BETTER WATCH OUR STEPS AND KEEP OUR EYES OPEN FOR DANGER!
VERY OPEN!
KRA-BOOM!!!
I'D KEEP MINE OPEN, BUT I WOULDN'T SEE ANYTHING ANYWAY!
THE LIGHTS WENT OUT, EINSTEIN!
DON'T MOVE.... SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE THERE SHOULD BE SOME CANDLES OR A FLASHLIGHT.
DON'T BOTHER, WILL! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT....
YIKES!
WOW! IT DOESN'T BURN!
HA-HA! OKAY, NOW, IT'S MY TURN TO SHOW YOU ALL SOMETHING.

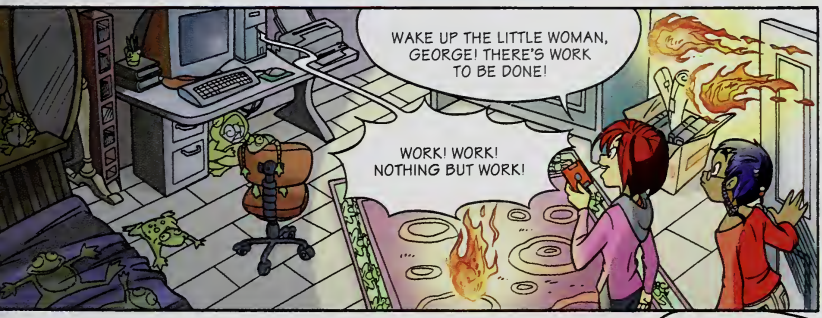
WANT A SNACK?
WHAT? DID YOU LEARN SOME NEW RECIPES OR SOMETHING?
WHAT CAN WE OFFER MY FRIENDS, JAMES?
JAMES? YOU HAVE A BUTLER AND YOU NEVER TOLD US?
THERE'S A RATHER MEAGER SELECTION, MISS WILL. . . . UNLESS SOMEONE WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO RESTOCK ME. . . .
EEEEEKKK!
AHEM . . . I SHOULD BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE FACT THAT THE CREAM CHEESE NEXT TO THE PICKLES HAS EXPIRED!
THE FRIDGE IS TALKING!
SORRY, JAMES. I'LL TAKE IT OUT RIGHT AWAY.
THE FRIDGE IS TALKING!
BIZARRE . . .
HE HAS VERY REFINED TASTES, YOU KNOW.
THE FRIDGE IS TALKING!
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! I'M NOT DEAF!

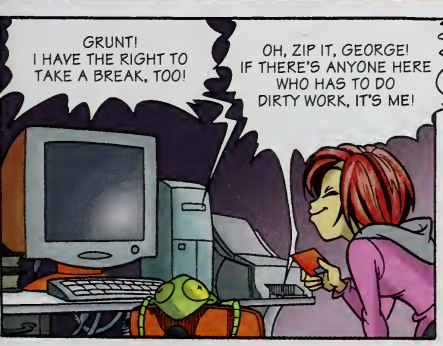
I DISCOVERED IT THE OTHER DAY. I CAN TALK TO THE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES! I'VE GIVEN THEM ALL NAMES....
. . . AND THEY DO WHAT I TELL THEM TO! THEY EVEN WORK WITHOUT ELECTRICITY!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COST-EFFICIENT! PUT ON CHANNEL TWELVE! *BOY COMET* IS ON! IT'S THE HOTTEST TV SHOW OF ALL TIME!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, BILLY?
OH, NO, WILL . . . YOU KNOW I JUST CAN'T STAND THE MUSIC ON *BOY COMET*!
MY SPEAKERS CAN'T HANDLE IT! WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE GOLDEN DAYS OF EASY-LISTENING MUSIC?
BUT... BUT...
KSSKKKSKSKKSK
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A NICE DOCUMENTARY? THERE'S ONE ON THE SECRET LIFE OF BLACK BEARS HERE ON GLOBENET!
WHAT CAN YOU DO? IT'S A PRETTY OLD MODEL.

HA-HA! EVERY DAY YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW! ISN'T IT GREAT?
"IN THE WINTER MONTHS, THE SOCIAL LIFE OF LARGER PLANTIGRADE ANIMALS REACHES DECIDEDLY LOW LEVELS. . . ."
THIS LOOKS LIKE A TON OF FUN. . . .

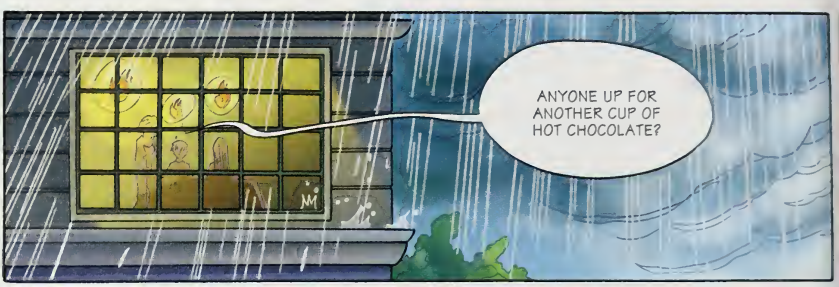
UM . . . CAN I ASK YOU A FAVOR, WILL?

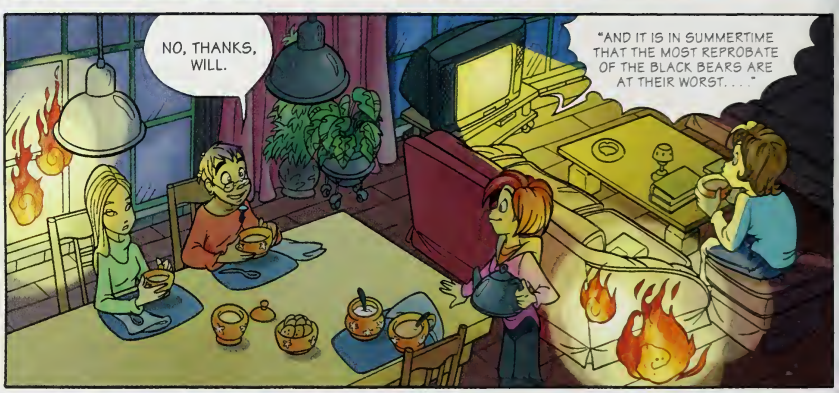

CAN I PRINT OUT MY SCIENCE PAPER?
SURE, TARANEE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

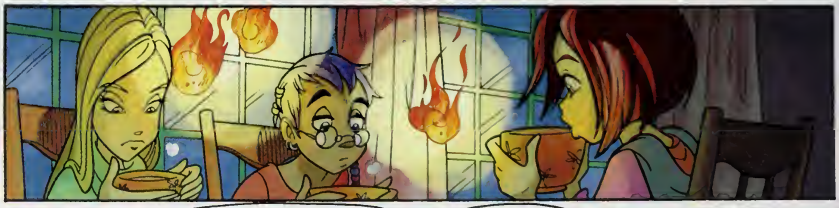

WAKE UP THE LITTLE WOMAN, GEORGE! THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE!
WORK! WORK! NOTHING BUT WORK!


GRUNT! I HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE A BREAK, TOO!
OH, ZIP IT, GEORGE! IF THERE'S ANYONE HERE WHO HAS TO DO DIRTY WORK, IT'S ME!

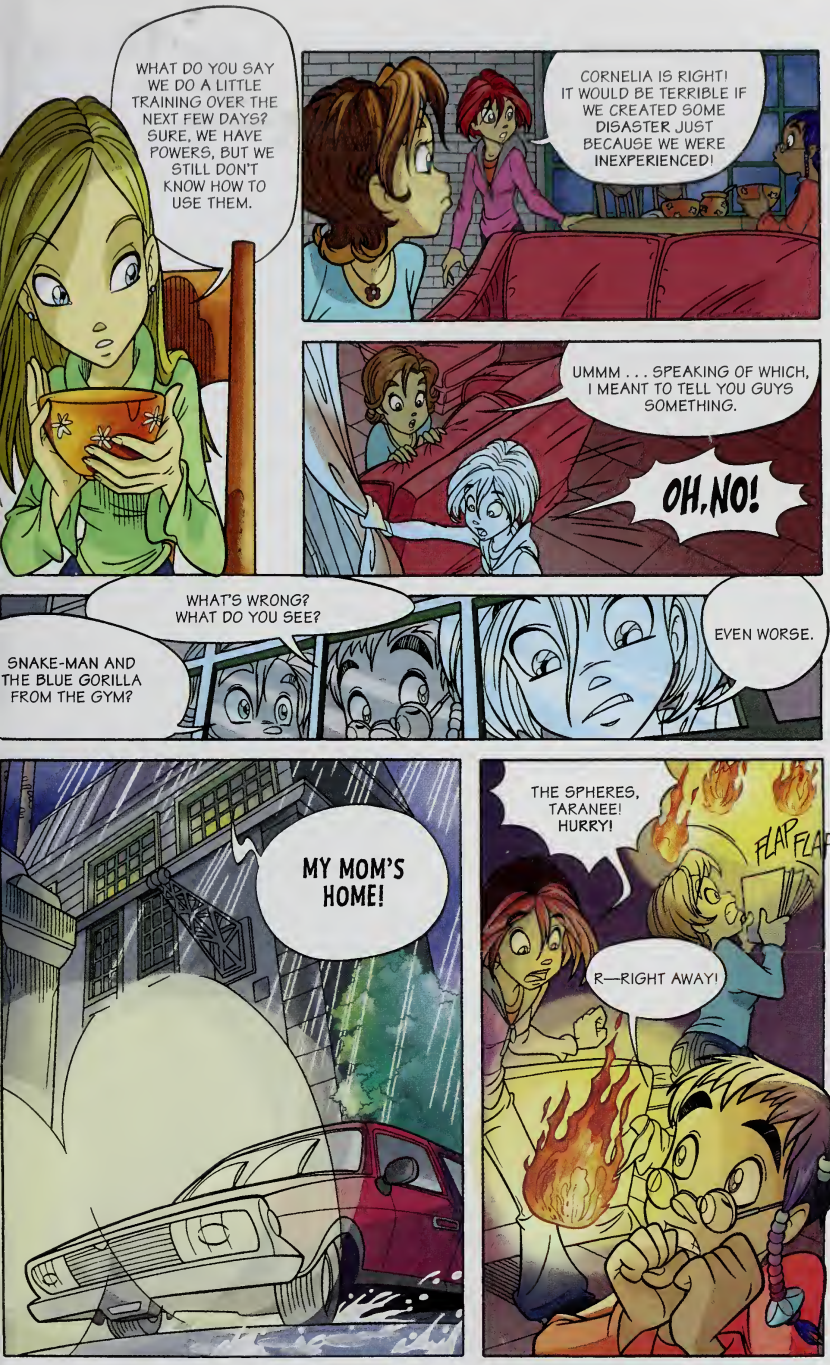
YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME THAT WAY, MILDRED!
THEY'RE FIGHTING?
I THINK THEY'RE HUSBAND AND WIFE. I COULD LISTEN TO THEM FOR HOURS!

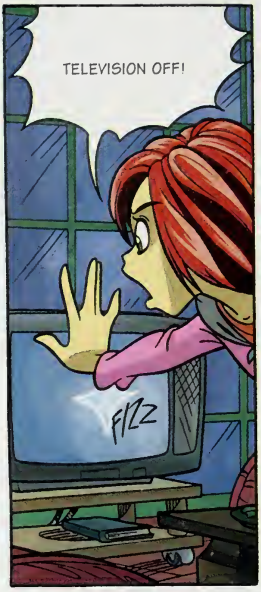

ANYONE UP FOR ANOTHER CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE?


NO, THANKS, WILL.
"AND IT IS IN SUMMERTIME THAT THE MOST REPROBATE OF THE BLACK BEARS ARE AT THEIR WORST. . . ."



SO WHAT DO YOU THINK CANDRACAR IS? I MEAN, WHAT DO YOU IMAGINE THIS PLACE "IN THE MIDDLE OF INFINITY" IS LIKE?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
BUT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE DANGERS WE'LL HAVE TO FACE. WHAT IS THERE BEYOND THE VEIL?
AND WHO WERE THOSE MONSTERS WE FOUGHT?


WHAT DO YOU SAY WE DO A LITTLE TRAINING OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS? SURE, WE HAVE POWERS, BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THEM.
CORNELIA IS RIGHT! IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE IF WE CREATED SOME DISASTER JUST BECAUSE WE WERE INEXPERIENCED!
UMMM . . . SPEAKING OF WHICH, I MEANT TO TELL YOU GUYS SOMETHING.
OH, NO!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT DO YOU SEE?
SNAKE-MAN AND THE BLUE GORILLA FROM THE GYM?
EVEN WORSE.
MY MOM'S HOME!
THE SPHERES, TARANEE! HURRY!
FLAP FLAP
R—RIGHT AWAY!


TELEVISION OFF!
FIZZ

AND COMPUTER OFF!
JUST A MINUTE! I'M STILL MISSING SIX LINES, FIVE LINES . . .
BREE-BREEBYEEE

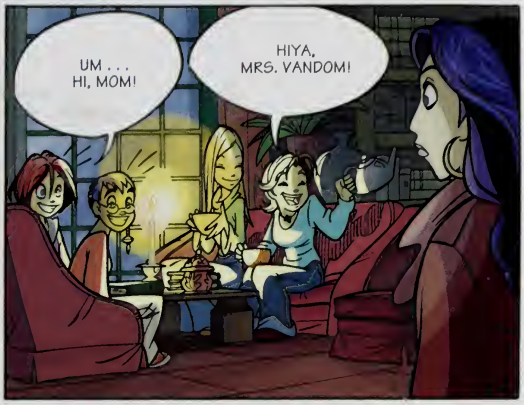
. . . FOUR . . . THREE . . .

KA BRAMM

. . . TWO . . . ONE . . .
REEEEE
BREEEEP
REEEP

TAK

WILL! ARE YOU HOME?


UM . . . HI, MOM!
HIYA, MRS. VANDOM!

MEANWHILE . . . AT HAY LIN'S HOUSE
BOOOM

ANYBODY HOME?

MOM? DAD? ARE YOU HERE?

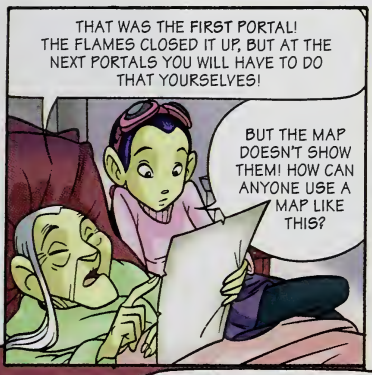
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DOCTOR?
?!

LAST MONTH'S FLU WEAKENED HER QUITE A BIT. SHE'S HAVING A HARD TIME RECOVERING.
THE MEDICINES WON'T BE OF MUCH HELP. THE TRUTH IS, YOUR MOTHER IS SIMPLY VERY OLD. SHE SEEMS TIRED, QUITE FRANKLY.
I SEE.
WE'LL CONTINUE WITH ALL OF THE TREATMENTS, BUT STAY CLOSE TO HER. THAT'S WHAT SHE NEEDS MOST RIGHT NOW.
OF COURSE. THANK YOU, DOCTOR.
I'LL CHECK UP ON HER IN A FEW DAYS. . . .
DAD, I'M HOME!
OH! HELLO, YOUNG LADY!
HAY LIN! YOU'RE SOAKING WET!
GO STRAIGHT UP AND CHANGE BEFORE YOU CATCH SOMETHING.
OKAY, DAD.

A WARM SOUTH WIND WOULD WORK BETTER THAN A HAIR DRYER, LITTLE ONE.
GRANDMA!
GO ON! WHILE YOUR FATHER ISN'T AROUND, LET ME SEE HOW YOU USE YOUR POWERS!
IF YOU SAY SO. . . .
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HA-HA-HA! SPLENDID!
I THINK YOU'LL BECOME VERY GOOD, MY LITTLE HAY LIN.
BUT FIRST YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT ON A FEW POUNDS, IF YOU DON'T WANT THE NORTHWEST WIND TO CARRY YOU OFF!
THE WIND IS MY FRIEND, GRANDMA!
HOW DO YOU FEEL TODAY?
HMPH! LET'S JUST SAY THAT I'VE FELT BETTER!

AND THE OTHER GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL— HOW ARE THEY DOING?
THEY'RE JUST FINE, GRANDMA! BUT YOU'LL GET BETTER, WON'T YOU?
OF COURSE! I FORESEE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT! HELP ME SIT UP, HAY LIN. THERE'S SOMETHING BENEATH MY PILLOW.
WHAT IS IT?
A SCROLL?
THIS IS FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. GIVE IT TO WILL. . . . SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.
WH—WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A MAP OF THE TWELVE PORTALS, LITTLE ONE. THAT IS THE NUMBER OF OPENINGS IN THE VEIL.
THE TWELVE PASSAGES THAT THE CREATURES OF METAMOOR WILL ATTEMPT TO CROSS THROUGH TO REACH OUR WORLD.
BUT . . . THERE'S NOTHING WRITTEN ON IT!
ARE YOU SURE, HAY LIN?
OH!
WIIIN

BUT THIS IS HEATHERFIELD! AND THAT SHINY POINT . . .
Heatherfield
. . . IS YOUR SCHOOL GYM! WHERE THE FIRST BATTLE TOOK PLACE!

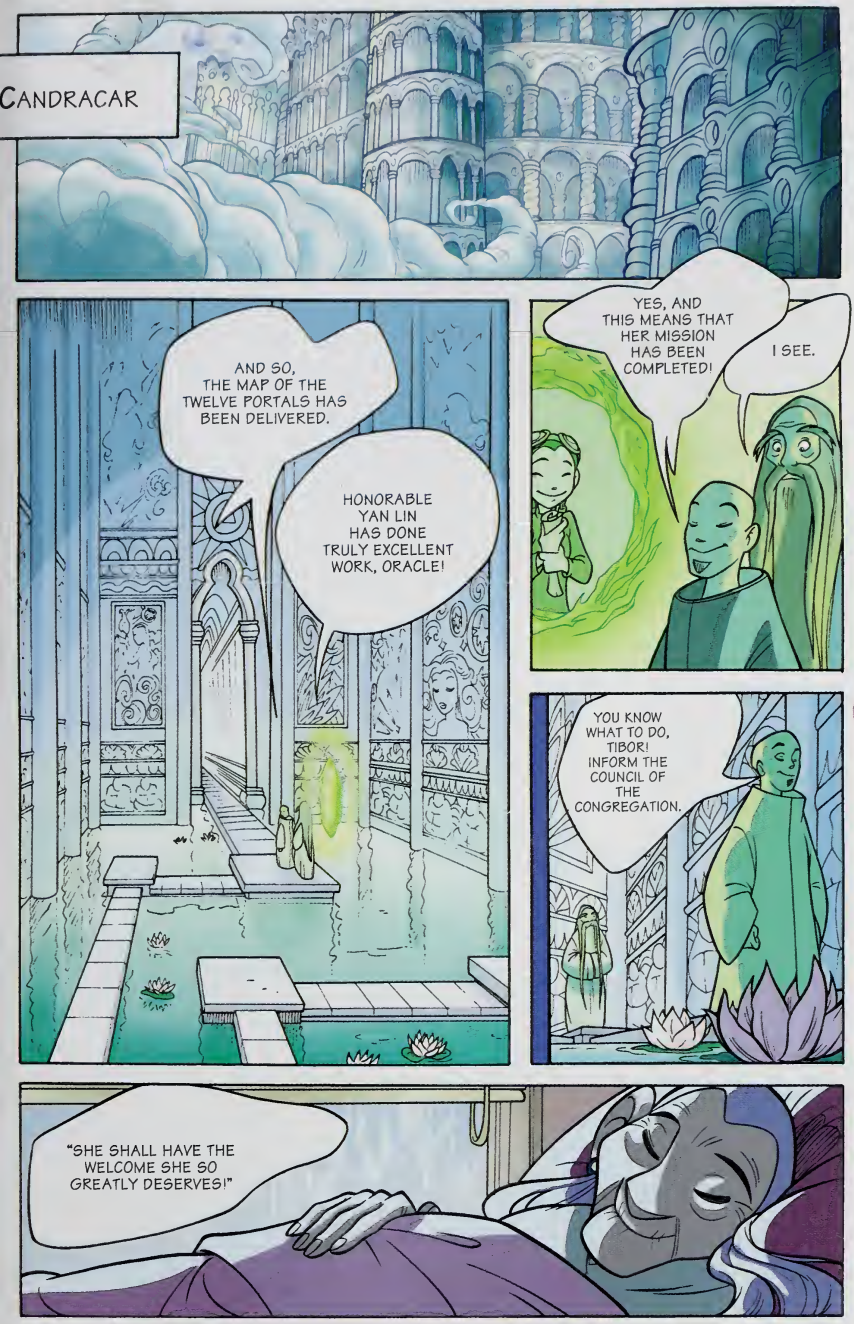

THAT WAS THE FIRST PORTAL! THE FLAMES CLOSED IT UP, BUT AT THE NEXT PORTALS YOU WILL HAVE TO DO THAT YOURSELVES!
BUT THE MAP DOESN'T SHOW THEM! HOW CAN ANYONE USE A MAP LIKE THIS?

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. . . . WITH TIME YOU WILL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.

ONCE I, TOO, WAS A GUARDIAN OF THE VEIL, LONG BEFORE YOU. AND ONCE I, TOO, WAS VERY IMPATIENT, JUST AS YOU ARE NOW.
YOU WERE A WITCH, TOO?

WITCH? HA-HA-HA! THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A COMPLIMENT, BUT IT CERTAINLY IS FUNNY!
WE AREN'T WITCHES. WE AREN'T EVEN FAIRIES! WE ARE SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT! WE ARE GUARDIANS!

BUT IN ANY CASE, IT'S YOUR TURN, NOW, HAY LIN.
IT'S TIME FOR YOUR MEDICINE, MOTHER!
AND PLEASE, NO FUSSING! I'VE TRIED IT MYSELF, AND IT'S VERY TASTY!
IF IT'S SO GOOD, WHY DON'T YOU PUT IT ON TODAY'S MENU?
COME ON! YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE A SCENE IN FRONT OF YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER.
ONCE I WAS THE ONE WHO SPOON-FED YOU, YOUNG MAN!
BUT IT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND TO FORCE SOMETHING SO NASTY ON YOU!
HA-HA-HA! COME ON. . . .
SEE? IT WASN'T SO BAD, AFTER ALL!
BLEAH!
TAKE CARE, HAY LIN! AND DON'T FORGET: EAT!
I PROMISE!
GOODNIGHT, GRANDMA!


CANDRACAR
AND SO, THE MAP OF THE TWELVE PORTALS HAS BEEN DELIVERED.
HONORABLE YAN LIN HAS DONE TRULY EXCELLENT WORK, ORACLE!
YES, AND THIS MEANS THAT HER MISSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED!
I SEE.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, TIBOR! INFORM THE COUNCIL OF THE CONGREGATION.
"SHE SHALL HAVE THE WELCOME SHE SO GREATLY DESERVES!"

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT SHEFFIELD INSTITUTE . . .
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS? EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT!
?
THE POLICE ARE IN THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AS WE SPEAK.
POOR MRS. KNICKERBOCKER! SHE'S MEAN, BUT NOT SO MEAN THAT SHE DESERVES TO GO TO JAIL.
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, HAY LIN. YOU DIDN'T WATCH THE NEWS ON TV THIS MORNING, DID YOU?
WHY? WHAT DID I MISS?
IT'S EVEN IN THE PAPERS. A BOY FROM OUR SCHOOL DISAPPEARED!
ANDREW HORNBY! DO YOU REMEMBER HIM?
WHO? THAT GORGEOUS BLOND GUY FROM THE UPPER SCHOOL?
EXACTLY! HE HASN'T BEEN HOME FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT! AS OF LAST NIGHT, HE'S OFFICIALLY A MISSING PERSON!

WAKE UP, IRMA! ISN'T THAT THE ONE YOU'RE CRAZY ABOUT?
WELL, Y—YEAH!
ANDREW

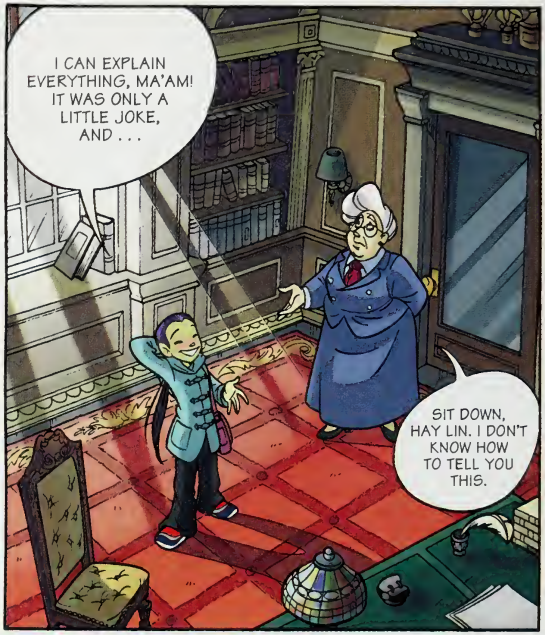
IN ANY CASE, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU GUYS SOMETHING SINCE LAST NIGHT!
LOOK! THEY'RE COMING OUT!

I'D APPRECIATE THAT, OFFICER! GOOD LUCK!
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, MA'AM! IF WE FIND ANYTHING OUT, WE'LL LET YOU KNOW.
POLIC
RINCIPAL

SEE? THEY DIDN'T TAKE HER AWAY!
SHE GOT LUCKY!

HAY LIN? I NEED TO TALK TO YOU RIGHT AWAY.
DO YOU THINK SHE HEARD ME?

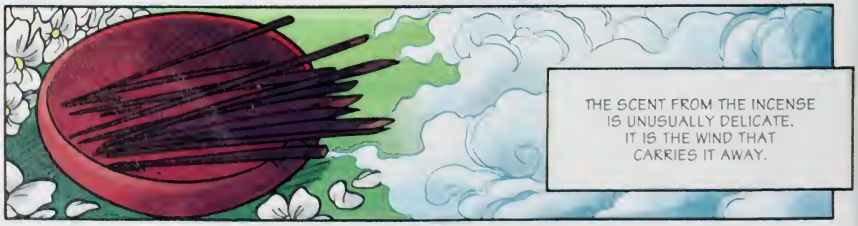
THIS WAY.


I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, MA'AM! IT WAS ONLY A LITTLE JOKE, AND . . .
SIT DOWN, HAY LIN. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS.

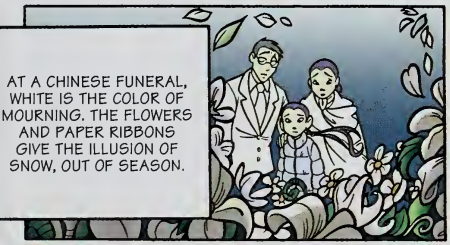
YOUR FATHER CALLED A FEW MINUTES AGO.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

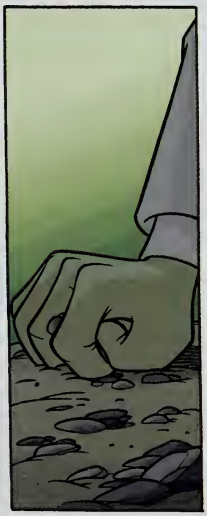
Smallwood Estates
Mrs Knickerbocker
PRINCIPAL


THE SCENT FROM THE INCENSE IS UNUSUALLY DELICATE. IT IS THE WIND THAT CARRIES IT AWAY.

T IS THE SAME WIND THAT BLOWS SO STRONGLY TODAY, IN THE HEATHERFIELD CEMETERY.


AT A CHINESE FUNERAL, WHITE IS THE COLOR OF MOURNING. THE FLOWERS AND PAPER RIBBONS GIVE THE ILLUSION OF SNOW, OUT OF SEASON.

IT IS NOT SNOWING, BUT IT IS COLD, JUST THE SAME.



GO AHEAD.

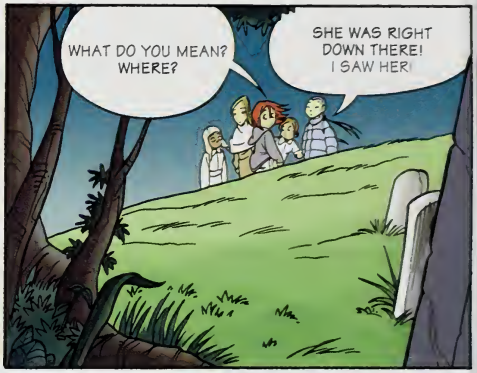
THANKS FOR COMING.
WE ARE SO SORRY, HAY LIN. . . .

I LOVE YOU ALL!

?!

NO!
IT CAN'T BE!
ELYON!

ELYON'S OVER THERE!
!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHERE?
SHE WAS RIGHT DOWN THERE! I SAW HER!

ELYON!

SHE WAS THERE, I SWEAR! SHE CAN'T HAVE HIDDEN SO QUICKLY!
LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK! MAYBE IT WAS ONLY A . . .

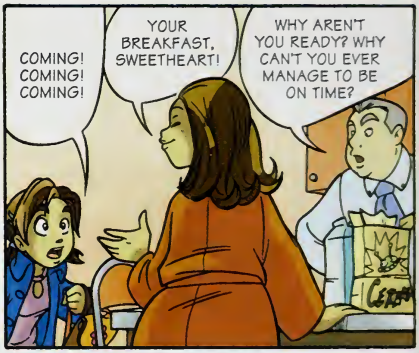
UHNNN . . .
WILL! ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH, I THINK SO!

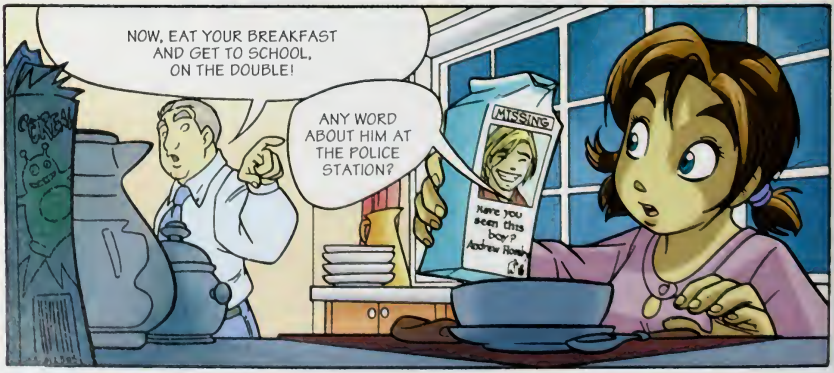
EVERYTHING'S FINE.
LET'S GO HOME, HAY LIN! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN. YOU'RE JUST UPSET.
EXCELLENT, ELYON!
TRULY EXCELLENT!

IT'S A NEW DAY IN HEATHERFIELD. . . .
LAIR

BUT AT THE LAIR HOUSEHOLD, IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY. . . .
IRMAAA! YOU'RE LATE, FOR PETE'S SAKE!


COMING! COMING! COMING!
YOUR BREAKFAST, SWEETHEART!
WHY AREN'T YOU READY? WHY CAN'T YOU EVER MANAGE TO BE ON TIME?

BUT I AM ON TIME.
SURE! IT'S THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT'S EARLY.


NOW, EAT YOUR BREAKFAST AND GET TO SCHOOL, ON THE DOUBLE!
ANY WORD ABOUT HIM AT THE POLICE STATION?
MISSING
Have you seen this boy?
Andrew Hoang

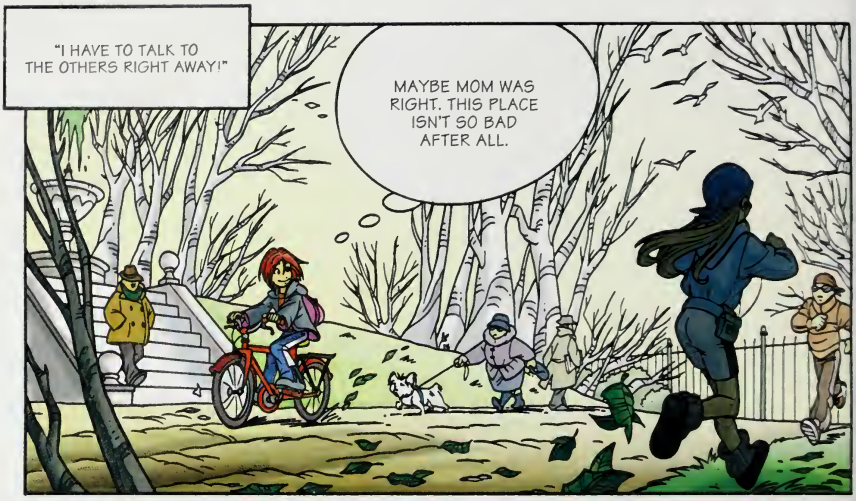
THE POLICE IN AUBRY FOUND YOUR FRIEND ELYON'S PARENTS' CAR.
NOT YET, BUT THERE'S OTHER NEWS! SERGEANT SOMMER JUST TOLD ME A MOMENT AGO.

I'M GOING TO THE STATION TO GET MORE INFORMATION.
REALLY?

YEP! BUT THERE'S STILL NO TRACE OF THE GIRL AND HER FAMILY. THEY SEEM TO HAVE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!
AUBRY IS PRETTY FAR FROM HERE! WHAT WERE THEY DOING ALL THE WAY OVER THERE?

I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I'VE READ THE REPORT. SEE YOU LATER, LADIES!
BE CAREFUL, TOM!

HMMM! THE PLOT THICKENS!
MISSING
Have you seen this boy?
Andrew Hornby
CEREAL


"I HAVE TO TALK TO THE OTHERS RIGHT AWAY!"
MAYBE MOM WAS RIGHT. THIS PLACE ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.

THE PARK IS WONDERFUL AT THIS TIME OF MORNING. THE CITY SEEMS SO FAR AWAY!

MAYBE WITH A BIT OF LUCK I COULD EVEN SEE . . .

URIAH AND HIS GANG! WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

I DON'T THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA, URIAH!
FOR THE LITTLE GOODY-GOODY, FUN IS NEVER A GOOD IDEA! CHILL OUT, NIGEL!

WE'RE JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN! IF YOU DON'T TRY DOING THINGS AT THIS AGE, WHEN ARE YOU EVER GONNA DO THEM?
PUTTING A DORMOUSE IN MARTIN'S LOCKER IS NOT WHAT I'D CALL LOTS OF FUN!

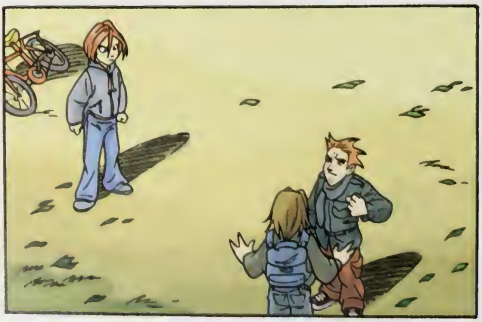
SNORT! IT'S NOT FUN 'CAUSE THE STUPID LITTLE CRITTER WON'T LET ME GRAB HIM! COME ON! STOP RUNNING AWAY!
AHA! HERE IT IS!
YAAAGH!
AAAGH! GET IT OFF ME! GET IT OFF ME!
BOUMP
HEH-HEH-HEH! NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL FUN!
THUNK
AAARGH!
YOU ROTTEN LITTLE . . .
?
?
DON'T YOU DARE!

OH, IT'S THE NEW GIRL!
SO, WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

LEAVE THE POOR THING ALONE!
OOOOH, I'M SOOO SCARED! LOOK. . . . I'M SHAKIN' LIKE A LEAF!

SO WHADDYA WANNA DO ABOUT IT? THIS TIME CORNELIA'S NOT HERE TO GET YOU OUT OF TROUBLE!
FOR THE LIKES OF YOU, I'M ENOUGH!

OH, YEAH?
URIAH . . .



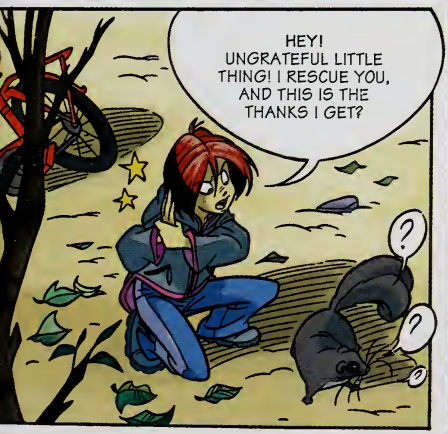
I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU!

IDIOTS! THEY GET ALL TOUGH WITH GIRLS AND DEFENSELESS ANIMALS! I DON'T KNOW HOW I MANAGED TO STOP MYSELF!
?
?

IF THEY TRY THAT AGAIN, I SWEAR, I'LL TEACH THEM A THING OR TWO!

SO, HOW DO YOU FEEL?
RRRR!

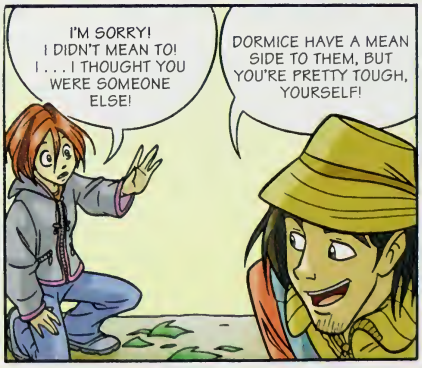
CHOMP!
OW!


HEY! UNGRATEFUL LITTLE THING! I RESCUE YOU, AND THIS IS THE THANKS I GET?
?
?

NEED A HAND?
YOU AGAIN!
?

I CAN MANAGE, THANKS!
OW!
POW

WH—WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
OHMYGOSH! SORRYSORRYSORRY! I . . . I MADE A MISTAKE!


I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO! I . . . I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE!
DORMICE HAVE A MEAN SIDE TO THEM, BUT YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH, YOURSELF!

YOU'RE MATT, RIGHT? I REALLY LIKED YOU AT THE CONCERT ON HALLOWEEN! THAT IS . . . I MEAN . . . YOUR SINGING!
WELL, THANKS

MY NAME'S WILL!
AND THIS IS YOUR LITTLE PET, HUH, WILL? LOOKS LIKE HE CAME OUT OF HIBERNATION A BIT EARLY!
BUMP

LOOK AT HOW OUT OF IT HE IS! HE'S STILL STUNNED. . . . COLD AND HUNGRY, TOO.
OW! AW!

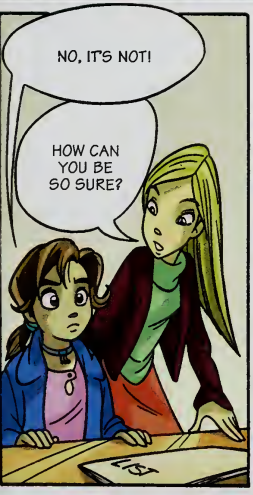
HERE, HE'LL FEEL BETTER WITH THIS!
WHAT HE NEEDS IS A NICE LITTLE NEST! AN OLD SOCK AND A T-SHIRT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
?
HE'LL SNUGGLE UP INSIDE, AND EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, WHEN HE FEELS LIKE IT, HE'LL POP OUT TO EAT SOMETHING.
LOOKS LIKE YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS STUFF.
MY GRANDPA HAS A PET SHOP, BUT DON'T ASK ME TO TAKE HIM OVER THERE! HE'S BUSY ENOUGH WITH ALL THE ANIMALS HE ALREADY HAS!
WAIT A SECOND! I CAN'T KEEP HIM!
ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU TWO WERE OBVIOUSLY MADE FOR EACH ANOTHER.
SEE YOU AT SCHOOL! AND IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE ON THE DORMOUSE . . .
HERE'S MY NUMBER! CALL ME!

BYE!
RRRR. . . .
YES!!
I HAVE TO ADMIT . . . I'M STARTING TO LIKE THIS CITY A LOT!

AND SO . . .
AND THAT'S ALL I FOUND OUT!
AUBRY, HUH? THAT'S SO WILD! I WONDER IF THEY WERE RUNNING AWAY!

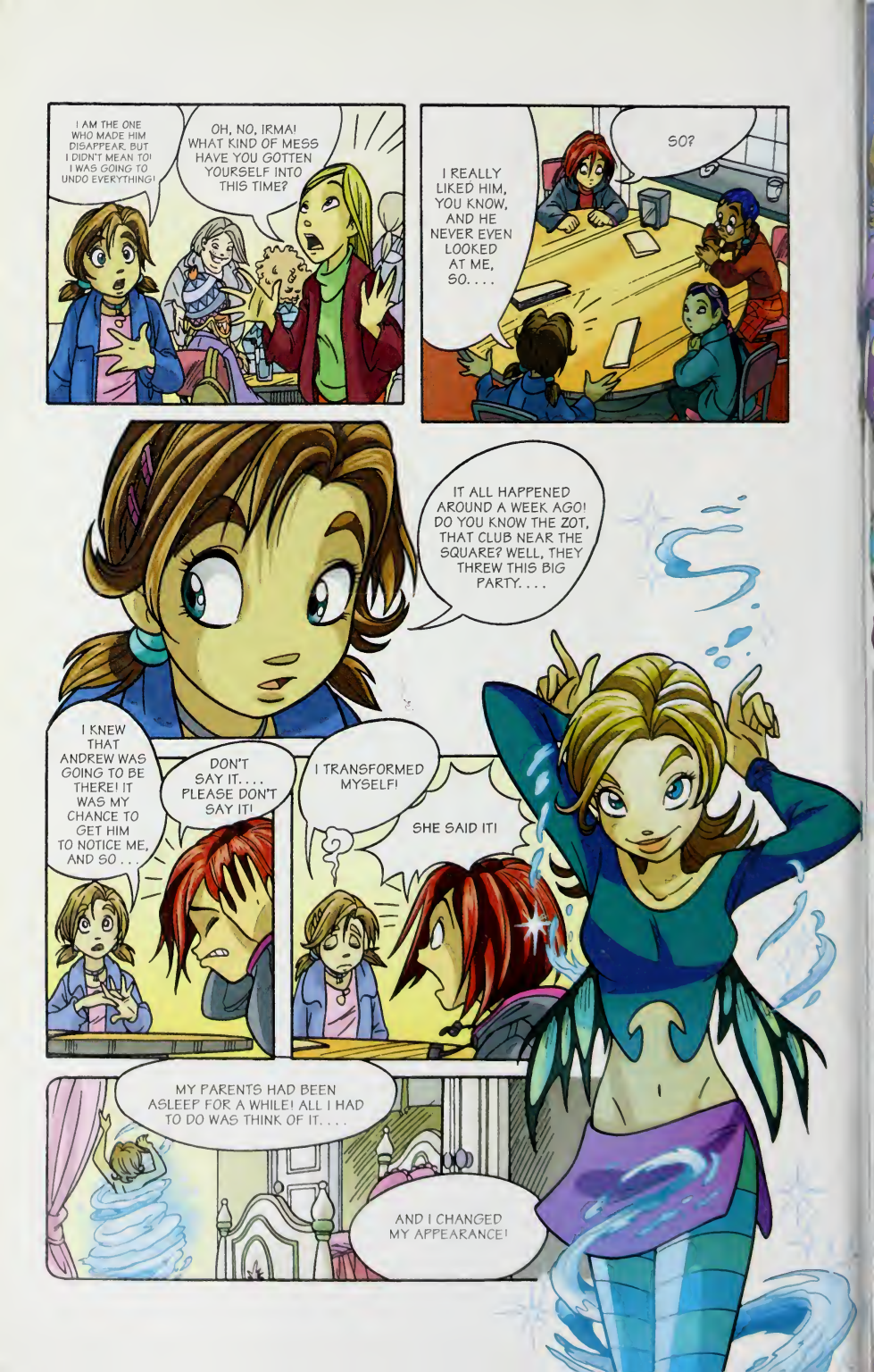
PUMPKIN CAFETERIA
COULD BE, BUT FROM WHAT?
WHO KNOWS? EVEN THOUGH WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER FOR THREE YEARS, ELYON NEVER TOLD ME MUCH ABOUT HER FAMILY!

MAYBE ELYON'S AND ANDREW'S DISAPPEARANCES ARE CONNECTED! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THAT'S A POSSIBILITY!


NO, IT'S NOT!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU GUYS SOMETHING FOR A FEW DAYS NOW, BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT. . . .

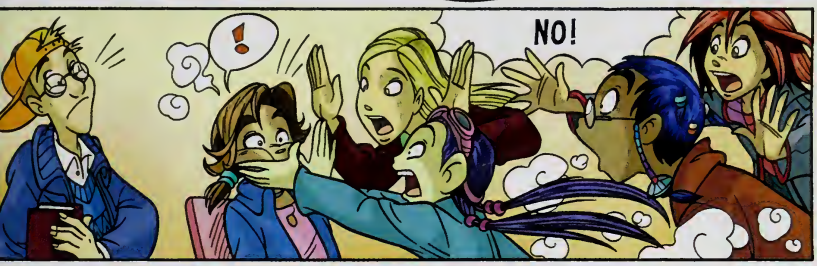
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ANDREW HORNBY!
WHAAAAT? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US BEFORE?


I AM THE ONE WHO MADE HIM DISAPPEAR. BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO! I WAS GOING TO UNDO EVERYTHING!
OH, NO, IRMA! WHAT KIND OF MESS HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO THIS TIME?
I REALLY LIKED HIM, YOU KNOW, AND HE NEVER EVEN LOOKED AT ME, SO. . . .
SO?
IT ALL HAPPENED AROUND A WEEK AGO! DO YOU KNOW THE ZOT, THAT CLUB NEAR THE SQUARE? WELL, THEY THREW THIS BIG PARTY. . . .
I KNEW THAT ANDREW WAS GOING TO BE THERE! IT WAS MY CHANCE TO GET HIM TO NOTICE ME, AND SO . . .
DON'T SAY IT. . . . PLEASE DON'T SAY IT!
I TRANSFORMED MYSELF!
SHE SAID IT!
MY PARENTS HAD BEEN ASLEEP FOR A WHILE! ALL I HAD TO DO WAS THINK OF IT. . . .
AND I CHANGED MY APPEARANCE!

I HID MY WINGS, AND I SNUCK INTO THE PARTY! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT! I WAS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION!
PARTY
THE ZOT
ZOT
ZOT
INCLUDING ANDREW'S?
ESPECIALLY HIS! WE TALKED AND DANCED ALL NIGHT! IT WAS FANTASTIC!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU USED YOUR POWERS FOR A PARTY?
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS DOING ANYTHING WRONG.
AND THEN? GET TO THE POINT, IRMA.
WELL, IN THE END, ANDREW OFFERED ME A RIDE HOME IN HIS CAR, AND I SAID YES!
BUT HE WANTED TO PULL A FAST ONE! HE PARKED THE CAR IN A DARK PLACE AND . . . AND HE TRIED TO KISS ME!
AND YOU?
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

I TURNED HIM INTO A TOAD!
FZZZ
ZAP
HE GOT SCARED, JUMPED OUT OF THE WINDOW, AND DISAPPEARED! I FOLLOWED HIM. . . . I LOOKED FOR HIM. . . . BUT IT WAS USELESS.
?
PFFFT!
PRRFRFRRRT!
HA-HA-HA-HA HA-HA-HA-HA!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT? THIS IS SERIOUS! I FEEL TERRIBLE! IT'S A TRAGEDY! A CATASTROPHE!

ANYTHING THE MATTER, HOT STUFF?
DISAPPEAR, MAR—


!
NO!

UM, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO SHOVE OFF, PIZZA FACE?
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, SWEET THING!

SO? WHAT DO WE DO?
SIMPLE! WE HAVE TO FIND ANDREW RIGHT AWAY AND . . .

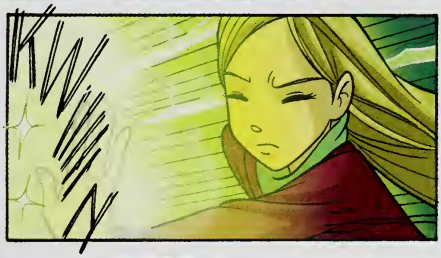
UHNN!
WILL! ARE YOU HAVING THAT FUNNY FEELING AGAIN? SHOULD WE START WORRYING?

IT'S LIKE A SHIVER! DIZZINESS! LIKE I'M FALLING INTO NOTHINGNESS!

NO!
HAY LIN?! ARE YOU OKAY?
LOOK! THIS TIME IT'S NOT MY IMAGINATION!
ELYON!
OHMYGOSH! SHE WENT RIGHT THROUGH THAT WALL! IT'S A GHOST!
IT'S LIKE SHE'S CALLING TO US. MAYBE SHE WANTS TO TELL US SOMETHING.
LET'S FOLLOW HER!
W—W—WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE! WE STILL HAVE TWO MORE HOURS OF CLASSES!
OH, PUH-LEEZE!
IF MRS. KNICKERBOCKER CATCHES US, THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE!
MRS. KNICKERBOCKER WILL NEVER FIND OUT! STEP ASIDE, LADIES!

I'LL OPEN AN EMERGENCY DOOR!

AND DO YOU KNOW HOW TO CLOSE IT, TOO?
SURE! IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF CONCENTRATION. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS THINK ABOUT IT REALLY HARD AND . . .



OKAY! SO I NEED A LITTLE MORE PRACTICE!
WE ARE SO IN FOR IT!

AND ON TOP OF THAT, WE'VE LOST ELYON, TOO!
LET'S GO! THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE WE COULD PROBABLY FIND HER . . .

. . . AND THAT PLACE IS HER HOUSE!

THIS WAY! IT LOOKS LIKE THE BACK DOOR IS OPEN.
ARE WE COMPLETELY AWARE OF WHAT WE'RE DOING? THIS IS CALLED UNLAWFUL ENTRY!

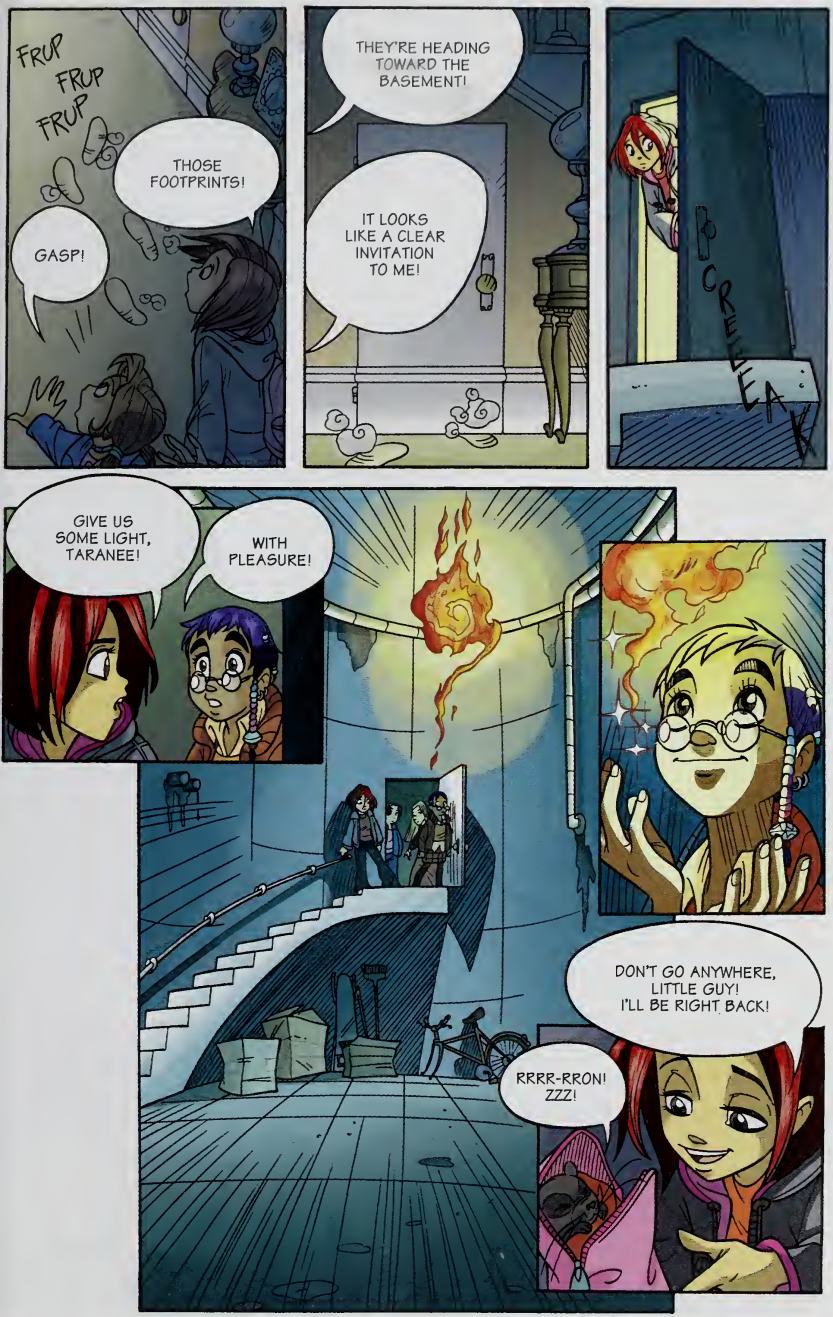
MY MOTHER IS A JUDGE, AND MY FATHER IS A LAWYER, AND I KNOW FOR SURE THAT PEOPLE WHO DO THESE THINGS GET LOCKED UP!
IF YOU DON'T FEEL UP TO IT, NO ONE'S FORCING YOU! WAIT FOR US OUT HERE!

HEE-HEE-HEE!
YOU WANT ME TO STAY OUT THERE ALL ALONE? FORGET IT!

WOW!

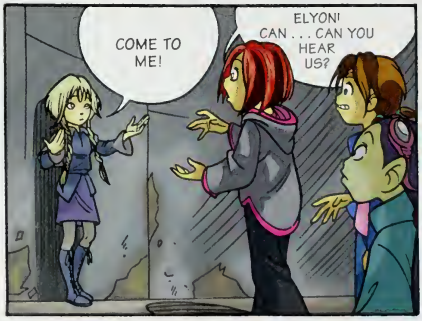
IT LOOKS SO MUCH SMALLER FROM THE OUTSIDE!
WHICH WAY DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO?

LOOK!
FROP


FRUP
FRUP
FRUP
THOSE FOOTPRINTS!
GASP!
THEY'RE HEADING TOWARD THE BASEMENT!
IT LOOKS LIKE A CLEAR INVITATION TO ME!
CREEEAK
GIVE US SOME LIGHT, TARANEE!
WITH PLEASURE!
DON'T GO ANYWHERE, LITTLE GUY! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
RRRR-RRON! ZZZ!

THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE FOOTPRINTS!
AND THIS BASEMENT HAS NO DOORS! WHERE WERE THEY TRYING TO LEAD US?

TO ME, GIRLS!


COME TO ME!
ELYON! CAN . . . CAN YOU HEAR US?

COME TO ME! COME TO ME!

DING
ANOTHER WALL! THIS IS STARTING TO BECOME A HABIT!

DING DING DING
BUT. . .

LET ME TAKE A LOOK!
IT'S METAL!

THERE'S A DOOR BEHIND ALL THIS!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
IT'S SEALED. THERE'S NO WAY TO OPEN IT.
THUMP
NO NEED FOR THAT!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO PULL OUT THE WALL, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY...
ZAP
STEP ASIDE!
BRING
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
IF IT'S A BROOM CLOSET, IT'S THE WEIRDEST ONE I'VE EVER SEEN!
GULP!
HAY LIN! YOUR JACKET!

WHEW! WHAT A RELIEF! IT'S JUST MY GRANDMOTHER'S MAP! THE CHART OF THE TWELVE PORTALS!
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM? AND WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT IT?
I WAS GOING TO! BUT WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, IT COMPLETELY SLIPPED MY MIND!
IT'S A MAP OF THE CITY! AND THESE SHINY POINTS . . .
. . . THEY'RE THE PORTALS LEADING TO METAMOOR! THE PORTALS THAT WE HAVE TO CLOSE! THE FIRST WAS IN THE GYM!
School
Elyon
AND THIS OTHER ONE?
IT'S ELYON'S HOUSE! AND . . . WE'RE INSIDE IT, GUYS!
AH!
IRAAAM

IT'S A TRAP!
DO SOMETHING, CORNELIA!
AHHH! GET ME OUT OF HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF, HAY LIN?
I'M YOUR FRIEND! FOLLOW ME! COME WITH ME TO THE OTHER SIDE!
NO . . . YOU'RE NOT REAL! THIS IS JUST A NIGHTMARE!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, YOUNG LADY. . . .
?!
. . . AND THIS TIME YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!
EEEEK!

EEEEK!
OH, NO! HAY LIN IS IN DANGER!
MOVE BACK! I'M GOING TO KNOCK THE WALL DOWN!
!
CLUMP
THE HOUSE IS ALIVE, GIRLS! STICK TOGETHER!
BRAAAMM
AAAGH!
!
WROOOM
HOLY COW!
DON'T STRUGGLE, CORNELIA! METAMOOR IS WAITING FOR YOU!
HUH?!

IT'S POINTLESS TO FIGHT BACK!
AAAGH!
UNNNNGH!
KRRRR
IT'S POINTLESS TO FIGHT BACK!
. . . POINTLESS . . .
N—NO! NO!
WE HAVE TO FIGHT! IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS! OUR ONLY CHANCE LIES IN THE HEART OF CANDRACAR!
AND IN OUR POWERS . . . AT THEIR VERY STRONGEST!

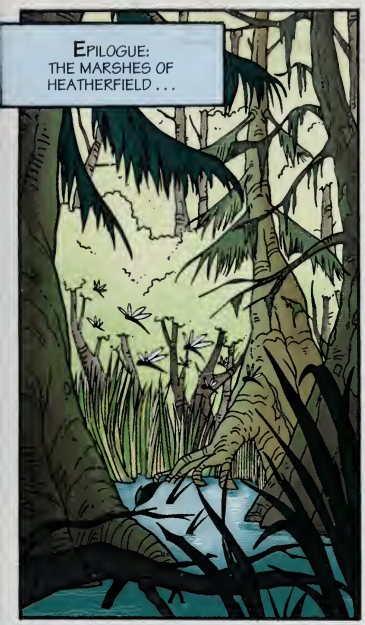
WATER!
FIRE!
YESSS!
EARTH!
AND AIR!

FREE!
STRONG!
AND ANGRY!
EVERYTHING OKAY, GALS?
IT'S INCREDIBLE! I'M . . . I'M DIFFERENT!
COOL, ISN'T IT? AND THAT'S NOT THE BEST PART!

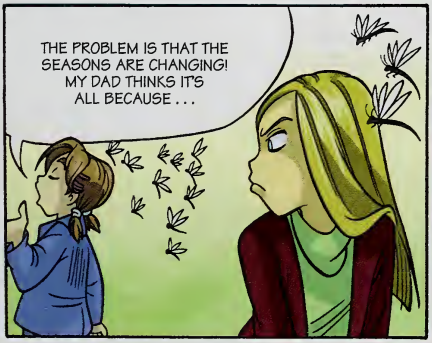
KZZ
KZKZZ
KZZ!
CRAKKLE
UH-OH!
KRA-KA-DOOM
UGH!
WELL LOOK WHO'S HERE! THE CREEP FROM LAST TIME!
WHERE'S HAY LIN?
I'M OVER HERE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY DIDN'T YOU TRANSFORM?
I—I DON'T KNOW! I WAS AFRAID! I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!
AND THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU AND TO YOUR FRIENDS!

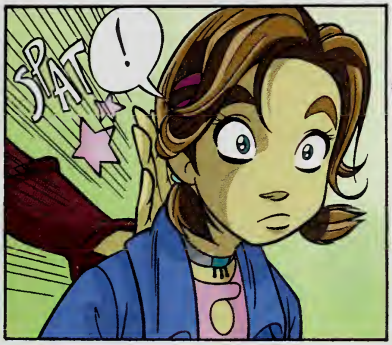
I DON'T THINK SO!
WAMM
HEY! NOT TOO SHABBY FOR A BEGINNER!
ENOUGH! ENOUGH! STOP!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
IS THAT REALLY YOU, ELYON? ANSWER ME, PLEASE!
YOU'RE FIGHTING A USELESS BATTLE, AND WHEN YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND THAT, IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WAIT!
TOO LATE! IT'S TOO LATE!
KWAAM

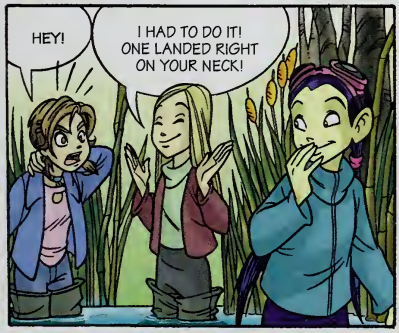
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MEANT BY THAT?
I HAVE NO IDEA, TARANEE! EVERY DAY I UNDERSTAND LESS AND LESS. . . .
WHERE DID ELYON GO? AND WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN?
MAYBE THAT BIG BOOK WOULD HELP! IT WAS HIDDEN DOWN THERE!
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE?
NEGATIVE! IT'S COMPLETELY EMPTY!
IN ANY EVENT, WE DIDN'T DO SO BAD, DID WE? WE MAKE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM!
BUT WE'RE STILL UNPREPARED! WE MADE IT THIS TIME, BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW!
IF WE WANT TO SEE OUR MISSION THROUGH TO THE VERY END, WE HAVE TO STUDY!
AS IF HOMEWORK FROM SCHOOL WASN'T ENOUGH!
AND FROM NOW ON, WE CAN'T MAKE ANY MORE MISTAKES!
HUH? WHY ARE YOU ALL LOOKING AT ME?

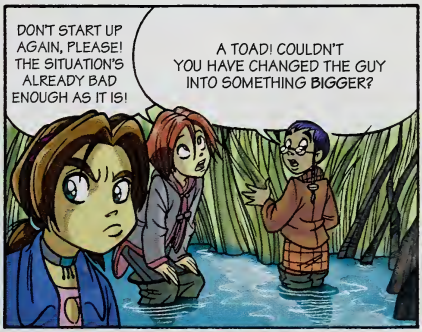

EPILOGUE:
THE MARSHES OF HEATHERFIELD . . .

LOOK AT ALL THESE MOSQUITOES! SHOULDN'T THEY BE ON VACATION THIS TIME OF YEAR?
BZZZzz BZZZ


THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE SEASONS ARE CHANGING! MY DAD THINKS IT'S ALL BECAUSE . . .


SPLAT!


HEY!
I HAD TO DO IT! ONE LANDED RIGHT ON YOUR NECK!


DON'T START UP AGAIN, PLEASE! THE SITUATION'S ALREADY BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS!
A TOAD! COULDN'T YOU HAVE CHANGED THE GUY INTO SOMETHING BIGGER?

SORRY, I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT. THE NEXT TIME THAT SOMEONE TRIES TO KISS ME, I'LL TURN HIM INTO AN ELEPHANT! HAPPY?
HMMM, I'VE GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU. . . .
DO TOADS HAVE LONG HAIR?
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY SO, HAY LIN!
IN THAT CASE, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FOUND HIM!
YAHOO! WE DID IT! WITHOUT YOUR HELP, I WOULD NEVER HAVE FOUND HIM.
CROAK!
YOU DO THE HONORS, IRMA! YOU GOT HIM INTO THIS, AND NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF IT!
GULP! ALL OF A SUDDEN, I HAVE THIS NAGGING DOUBT!
TO CHANGE HIM BACK TO HIS NORMAL SELF, I DON'T HAVE TO KISS HIM, DO I?

Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia, and Hay Lin are five ordinary friends with an extraordinary secret. They have been chosen to be Guardians of the Veil. With the help of the four elements of nature—air, earth, wind, and fire—and the power of energy, the five friends must find a way to save the earth from evil forces.

In GRAPHIC NOVEL #1 the five friends discover their destinies and the power of their friendship in 128 pages of original 4-color comics.

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